

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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ARAB POPULAR CONFERENCE WORKING SESSION BEGINS IN DAMASCUS 25 NOV

JN252151Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The first working session of the Arab Popular Conference began at noon today at the building of the Trade Unions Federation in Damascus. The head of the Syrian delegation, Yusuf al-As'ad, addressed the conference and greeted the delegations in the name of Syria, the bastion of confrontation and steadfastness. Al-As'ad said: Our Arab people from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf are here with their friends from all over the world and from the friendly socialist countries. They came to Syria, the country of fighters and of the front of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, to express their rejection and condemnation of the two humiliating Camp David agreements.

Al-As'ad spoke about holding the conference at this stage and said: This conference represents Arab dignity and pan-Arab pride. Damascus has always been proud to host the struggling Arabs so as to hold aloft the banner of Arab struggle and to strengthen the Arab struggle through genuine solidarity.

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat then made a speech in which he stressed that the fate of the Arab region is its Arab fate, its militant fate and its revolutionary fate. He said: If As-Sadat went to Camp David, Blair House or to other places, this does not mean that the Arab nation will surrender to the U.S. will or to the will of plotters and agents. 'Arafat hailed the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and said: This rapprochement is the cornerstone in restoring the balance and dealing with the strategic imbalance in the region. The Palestinian revolution considers itself a natural extension of Iraqi-Syrian unity. He praised the results of the Baghdad summit and said that the Arab people in Egypt will not allow the plots to succeed.

Referring to the U.S.-Zionist plot in fraternal Lebanon, he said that the Arab people will not allow this plot to succeed and will continue their struggle to foil all the U.S. and Zionist plots.

'Umar al-Hamadi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Conference, then read the text of the working paper presented by the General Secretariat to the Arab Popular Conference. The paper stresses that complete liberation of the Palestinian and Arab territories is a pan-Arab responsibility to be borne by the Arab masses. Nobody can negotiate, compromise, surrender, or yield an inalienable and historic Arab rights. The paper stresses that the responsibility of national liberation necessitates the pooling of Arab capabilities of human, economic and political power in the service of a pan-Arab strategy. This means, the paper says, that Arab unity is the only way to achieve a pan-Arab strategy.

After reviewing the capitulationist policies of the Egyptian ruler and the imperialist policy of plundering the Arab people's economic and human wealth, the working paper emphasizes that the signing of the Camp David agreements, the completion of the separate reconciliation treaty with the enemy and the formation of the U.S.-Zionist-As-Sadat alliance not only removes Egypt's military and human power from the front of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, but also adds these powers to the enemy front. This will increase the enemy's ability to concentrate its forces and aggressive operations against the eastern and northern fronts.

The working paper announces that the requirements of confrontation mean that the conference must consider the charter of the front of confrontation and steadfastness and the Iraqi-Syrian joint action charter as the basis for confrontation and as an Arab base to pool resources in confronting the Zionist enemy and in striking at the U.S. monopolies in the Arab region. The nationalization of Arab oil must be considered an urgent step in escalating the confrontation with the U.S. Zionist alliance. The As-Sadat regime must be expelled from the Arab nation, and the Arab nation must be called on to sever political and diplomatic relations with the Egyptian regime and to halt all kinds of aid to it.

The Arab countries should be urged to back the Syrian Arab Republic as the main front of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and the spearhead in any coming confrontation with this enemy. This support will be on the political, economic and moral levels. The working paper also stresses the need to promote the unity of all factions of the Palestinian revolution and to work to escalate the armed struggle inside the occupied territories.

'Arafat Speech

JN251043Y Damascus Domestic Messages in Arabic 0850 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Speech by PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat at the opening session of the Arab Popular Conference--live]

[Text] Sorry, your request came as a surprise although I am very proud to speak at this conference and before--I do not want to say our guests--before our friends and allies who have come from all over the world to attend this conference, including friends in the nonaligned, Islamic, African and socialist countries, foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union.

When I say they are not guests, I mean in the very sense of the word. Actually, we in the Arab progressive forces and in the conference of steadfastness and confrontation (?classify) these guests as friends and strategic allies in one trench against imperialism, Zionism and colonialism for the sake of progress, democracy and the Arab presence, which is scoring victory on this land which will continue to be Arab, Arab, Arab. [applause]

Here in revolutionary Syria and Syria of Al-Asad heritage is intermingled with history, culture, future, present, challenge and confrontation. This has been expressed by the summit of steadfastness and confrontation whose resolutions genuinely express that this nation will never kneel, will never succumb, will resist Carter, Begin and all agents in the region. This land will triumph and that one flag--the Arab flag--and one will--the Arab will--will be hoisted in the Arab world. [applause]

Brothers, following our meeting of steadfastness and confrontation in Tripoli, many imperialist circles led by the United States believed we would not succeed [words indistinct]. Carter had for 1 year planned for Camp David and the ill-omened visit to Jerusalem. Jerusalem has in Arab history been conquered by men like 'Umar ibn al-Khattab and Salah ad-Din. Only conquerers in our Arab nation can enter Jerusalem. The Arab nation will never be indulgent toward the Israeli tanks which are playing havoc with the sanctities of Jerusalem. The Arab nation will never be indulgent toward this logic.

Our Arab nation is a great Arab nation. Our nation will never allow treason to pass. It will also never allow this havoc to pass. Carter has his plans. However, they had plans in 1939. Chamberlain moved to bring about (?peace). Chamberlain was met with fake demonstrations similar to those which met As-Sadat. Those who met As-Sadat were not the Egyptian people or the people of 'Abd an-Nasir or the people of [word indistinct]. They were not the Egyptian people. The Egyptian people are those who are in prisons and detention camps. The Egyptian people are those who belong to Kamal Ahmad, who condemned treason and who said "no" to submission and "no" to treason. [applause] This is Egypt's will which is presented by this hero who made his challenges with steel will at the People's Assembly. This man is the one who expresses Egypt's will. He who visited Jerusalem does not express Egypt's will [words indistinct]. As-Sadat will never express the Arab nation's will. [applause].

At one point Carter and his hirelings in the Arab area believed they could decide the fate of the area. I tell them that the fate of the Arab nation is the Arab fate and will. This is the fate of this area.

There is no other fate except its struggling, personal, intrinsic, revolutionary, progressive and democratic fate. This is the real fate in this Arab area.

Chamberlain [words indistinct]. He neither achieved peace nor truce. War then broke out in the world. I tell Carter that if he has succeeded in making one individual in the Arab nation bow down in Jerusalem, Blair House or Camp David, this does not mean that this nation bows and it will not bow. There will only be steadfastness, challenge and continuation of the struggle until victory, victory, victory, victory. [applause]

Brothers, quickly reviewing the current situation in the Arab area, we find that tremendous developments have taken place. These developments are favorable of our confrontation--the confrontation that was declared at the first conference of steadfastness and confrontation. [Words indistinct] after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the Camp David plot, Brzezinski said "goodbye to the PLO." He even motivated the Israeli army to crush the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. What was the result? Eight full days of war, and the outcome was in favor of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. Therefore, Brzezinski's wish did not come true.

Our nation later adopted firm and strong steps. Resolutions of the conferences of Tripoli, Algiers and Damascus resolutely indicate that the Arab nation will continue its struggle even if we are alone. There is another important matter, namely, as I said before, there is a strategic imbalance in the Arab nation. The Arab nation should make up for this imbalance through its resources and capabilities as well as through more cohesion led by the Soviet Union. These two matters were adopted by the Tripoli conference. Then came the rejection from Baghdad when they replied to President al-Asad's message. The Iraqi-Syrian meeting and the Joint National Action Charter consider the Palestinian revolution a natural and strategic extension of this meeting. [applause]

That was the reply, brothers. Then came the Baghdad conference. As-Sadat said in Camp David that the Arab nation cannot meet without As-Sadat. I tell you that at the Baghdad conference Egypt was in the heart and in the conscience. The Baghdad conference represented oppressed Egypt, Egypt which is oppressed by As-Sadat. Brothers, Egypt will never kneel. Egypt of 'Urabi, Egypt of 'Abd an-Nasir and Egypt of hope will never kneel. Egypt was with us in Baghdad. This is a real expression of the will of steadfastness and confrontation in Egypt.

This is the important thing that emerged from the Baghdad summit conference as an answer to the Camp David plot. As everyone knows, they tried all ways to undermine the conference. But the will represented in the progressive and good forces in our Arab nation was stronger than the plot and the plotters. These resolutions are not a minimum. I have attended many summit conferences, and I maintain that the Baghdad summit was the most successful of all summit conferences. This summit provided real and satisfactory answers to many of the questions posed in the Arab world. I will not say that the resolutions answered all questions, but they gave answers of which we are in dire need at this historic and civilizational crossroad of our history. The most important thing about the resolutions is that they reaffirmed the resolutions of the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences and that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Why, brothers? Because there has been a continuous attempt--since As-Sadat went to Jerusalem and through Leeds, Camp David and now Blair House--to bypass the Palestinian people, the PLO and the inalienable, legitimate and historic rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland, to determine their future, and to establish their own independent state on their national soil. Thus, the Damascus conference came to emphasize these meanings. Emphasis at this stage is important because it says "no" to the plotters against the Arab nation and that the Arab will not deviate from its aims.

Palestine is at the heart of the Arab struggle at this delicate, historic and civilizational stage the Arab nation is passing through. This is the important thing that we must know and take into account.

The other thing, brothers, [words indistinct] I will not say that we have taken all that we wanted [words indistinct] but it is a good starting point through which we can challenge and proceed. As we have said, we will fight and we are still [words indistinct] we said this everywhere brothers. [Words indistinct] we will fight even alone. This is our decision, brothers, our decision in the Palestinian revolution and in Syria. This our decision in confronting and defying. This is our decision in the Syrian-Iraqi National Action Charter. This is our decision in these four consecutive and harmonious aspects that are equally important at the future, civilizational and progressive levels of the desired goal, namely, that this land remain Arab and for our Arab nation.

I am saying this, brothers, because the road is long and difficult. Another important thing I must mention is that the Baghdad summit conference truly expressed as one of its provisions stated, these [?thanks] [applause] for our friends and allies in the nonaligned countries, the African countries, the socialist countries and the Islamic countries. This means that the Arab struggle is linked with a great world struggle. This also means that the Arab nation is linked at the civilization level to the march of free men and honest people in the whole world. [applause] This is a very important thing, brothers, and we must be aware of it and take it into account while we assess what happened at the Baghdad summit--[applause] the Baghdad conference that they tried to undermine was a new victory for the Arab march against this plotting.

The battle is long and difficult. We know that there are many attempts to vanquish this progressive and democratic Arab march. There are many attempts, brothers. Today they are talking of an Israeli-Egyptian alliance to confront moves in the Arab area. [Words indistinct] in the past fascism allied with Nazism, but was it able to impose its will on the world? Never. They could not impose their will. Brothers, one day the Nazis arrived at Moscow's door, but the Soviet Union did not fall. One day Mussolini and Romel arrived at Alexandria's door, but Cairo did not fall. This is what we mean when we say we are confronting and defying in the Arab area all these imperialist and Zionist attempts at controlling, containing and dominating our Arab area, which has a strategic position and huge oil reserves. These are the current attempts, but brothers, not all that colonialism or Carter is planning is our fate. This destiny is here in the Arab area. It is the destiny of those free men, honest men and revolutionaries in the Arab area who are united with their friends and allied throughout the world.

This is the will that will prevail, regardless. If we lose a battle, it does not mean that we lost the war. Undoubtedly, at this time we are losing temporarily; when I say temporarily, I mean temporarily, because I know the will of challenge in our great people in Egypt who are like the Nile River: calm, calm, calm. But when the flood surges, it destroys all agents and traitors in Egypt and in the Arab area. This is the will, brothers. [applause]

Our path is difficult and long, brothers. We know that the conspiracy is moving in different directions; it is now moving in Lebanon. There is an American-Israeli plan with certain agent forces that have chosen to cooperate with the imperialist American-Zionist enemy. There is an attempt now planned, both in southern and northern Lebanon. They believe that they can strike at the Syrian-Iraqi alliance through Lebanon. But I tell them--and my brothers in the Lebanese nationalist movement would allow me to speak on their behalf--I tell them in the name of the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution that this plot will succeed only over our dead bodies. This is the pledge of free men. We will fulfill this pledge and revolution until victory. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Al-Ahmar Speech

JN25 1145Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party, on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad, at the opening session of the Arab Popular Conference--live]

[Excerpts] Brother members of the conference, guests: I am pleased to represent the comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in opening your conference and welcoming you in the name of the leader of our people's march, the leadership of our party, the progressive national front, the popular organizations and trade unions in our country. I welcome the brother members of the Arab Popular Conference coming from the various countries of the Arab homeland. I also welcome the guests of the conference, including the delegates of political parties and organizations, the representatives of international and regional organizations, nationalist figures, and men of letters, thinkers and journalists from the various fraternal and friendly countries.

I greet your conference, which is being held in Damascus, the pulsating heart of Arabdom and the bastion of steadfastness and struggle. The Syrian people are proud to host this great popular conference, whose convocation at this very moment expresses the unlimited resolve of our Arab nation to face all dangers and challenges threatening our present and future and to resist all the imperialist conspiratorial plans and all Zionist attempts at expansion and domination. The convocation of this conference also expresses our determination to continue the struggle until the complete liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to return to their homeland, to determine their own destiny and to establish their independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

Brother conferees, the convocation of this important conference in Damascus following the signing of the treasonous Camp David agreement between As-Sadat's regime and the Zionist enemy with the participation and encouragement of American imperialism is considered an indivisible part of the comprehensive pan-Arab action being taken on all levels and a prominent militant effort expressing our Arab people's resolve to stand fast and fight until victory.

All countries of the Arab nation and all progressive nationalist and patriotic forces in the Arab world have risen to take immediate action. The first reaction was the Arab condemnation and rejection of the Camp David agreements. The first result of this reaction was that the imperialists and Zionists were proved wrong in assuming that the Egyptian regime could drag the Arabs to capitulation and that the involvement of that regime would lead to the involvement of the entire Arab nation. The Egyptian regime itself has erroneously and egotistically imagined that it could carry the Arab nation along with it wherever it went regardless of the nation's interests and unanimous wish. Naturally, the Egyptian regime was proved wrong. The developments that followed the Egyptian regime's signing of the capitulatory documents have proved the vitality of the Arab nation and its ability to face all challenges and rectify the situation resulting from the Egyptian regime's deviation to the enemy side.

The importance of this conference also stems from the serious circumstances in which it is being held. The area is witnessing the continuation of the plots to liquidate the Palestinian question--the cause of the current Arab struggle--to force surrender on our Arab nation and to restore imperialist and Zionist domination over our entire Arab region. These plots also aim at entrenching the division of our Arab nation, exploiting its resources, hampering its progress and placing more obstacles on the path of our struggle for Arab unity, liberation and the construction of socialism.

The hostile forces are manipulating all their tools inside and outside our region and are using all their reserve and potential to enforce their domination of the Arab homeland. The collusion of the As-Sadat regime today constitutes the most dangerous link in this conspiracy, which could have a serious effect on the Arab struggle against the hostile and expansionist Zionist onslaught as well as on the present and future of the entire Arab nation.

This grave situation calls for the pooling of the Arab nation's limitless resources and places this conference that represents the Arab world's progressive nationalist and patriotic parties; popular, trade union and professional organizations; prominent nationalist figures and men of letters and thought--the effective, influential and vanguard forces of our Arab nation--before its major responsibilities. It should adopt the necessary resolutions and measures to advance the pan-Arab struggle several steps toward building the pan-Arab popular front, and strengthening our nation's ability to resist and struggle for the achievement of our pan-Arab aims of unity, freedom and socialism.

Brother members of the conference: The struggle is long and arduous and its path is full of obstacles and hardships, calling for more sacrifices to achieve peace for people, all peoples of the world.

The achievement of a just peace is essential for building our nation's future and progress. The achievement of this peace must be based on the complete liberation of our occupied Arab territory and the acknowledgement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. This is the main short-term strategic objective of our nation's current struggle. It cannot be superseded by any other objective. Our struggle for this peace will continue despite all hardships and obstacles.

We differentiate between peace and surrender. But the Egyptian regime complicated matters by eliminating any difference of distinction between peace and surrender when its ruler went to Jerusalem and bowed down before the Israeli flag. Matters were made even worse when the enemy became convinced that it can force surrender on the Arab nation and distort the picture of peace by presenting the Zionist way.

This distortion will prevent us from seeing the true picture of peace, which has been instilled in our minds and which has been handed down to us through the generations--the peace which was established through sacrifices and the peace which means justice, no occupation, no expulsion, no injustice, and no humiliation but freedom, sovereignty, and dignity.

Brothers: Occupation and division will remain the biggest current challenges to our nation. Our struggle for Arab unity and liberation from all the effects of imperialist domination and foreign influence must be the main bases for achieving victory over our enemy and settling our conflict with him in the interest of our Arab nation. Proceeding along this path is the only choice before our generation and the future generations of our nation. Our nation must face up to its responsibility. Let our action rise to the level of the dangers threatening us. Let us forge ahead on the path of the struggle for liberation and the building of the unified socialist Arab society.

Greetings to our struggling Arab people in all parts of our great Arab homeland. [applause]
Greetings to our righteous martyrs who fell in defense of the Arab nation and its right to life and victory in all fields of struggle in the great Arab homeland. [applause]
Greetings to our brothers in the occupied territory who are fighting and resisting the racist Zionist occupation.

Greetings to the national movement and the struggling masses in the Arab Republic of Egypt who are striving to overthrow the traitorous As-Sadat regime. [applause]

Greetings to the rapprochement between the two fraternal Arab countries, Iraq and Syria [prolonged applause] as the basis and turning point in the struggle to achieve the hopes of the Arab masses.

Greetings to the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence in various parts of the world. [applause]

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Greetings to the Soviet Union and Arab friendship with the socialist bloc countries. [applause]
Greetings to the liberation, socialist and peace forces in the whole world. [applause]
Let the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front strengthen. Shame on the traitorous As-Sadat regime and all the anti-Arab forces collaborating with it. Let the victorious march of our nation toward liberation, unity and progress triumph. Let the peoples' march for freedom, unity, progress and just peace in the whole world triumph. Peace be with you.

Message From Iraqi President

JN250934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 November--Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic has stressed that the continuation of the Egyptian president to implement the agreements he concluded with the enemy will not preclude the continuation of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

President al-Bakr has emphasized that the struggle against the Zionist enemy will continue with all honest and legitimate ways to restore full Arab rights.

In a message he addressed to 'Umar Khalifah al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Conference, on the occasion of the start of the meetings of the Permanent Secretariat in Damascus today, President al-Bakr stressed that the Arab nation's stand rejecting agreements and all their consequences became clear at the Baghdad summit conference, which convened early this month.

President al-Bakr said that Iraq, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has consistently and firmly adhered to its principled pan-Arab stand. Iraq has always stood firmly on the side of the issues of the glorious Arab nation and placed all its resources at the support of any endeavors to confront and resist attempts at the settlement and capitulation that the As-Sadat regime made.

The following is the text of the message sent by the comrade deputy secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic to the Arab Popular Conference:

'Umar Khalifah al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab Popular Conference, on the occasion of the convocation of the emergency session of the Arab Popular Conference: It gives me pleasure to greet your conference, which convenes under these serious circumstances our nation is passing through in the wake of the unilateral signing of the humiliating Camp David agreements by the Egyptian president who authorized himself alone to determine the outcome of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

It is worth noting that the Arab nation rejects such a measure because it greatly harms the nation and stabs it in the heart to determine the destiny of the Palestinian question without legal basis. Throughout many years the Arab nation has considered the Palestinian question the primary and central issue. Brothers, what exacerbates the question is that the agreement that the Egyptian president concluded with the Zionist enemy and their provisions for the establishment of political, economic, cultural and tourist relations will create new conditions in one of the most important and biggest Arab countries. This is considered a substantial change in the relations between the Egyptian regime and its Arab brothers.

We must say with all frankness that the continuation of the Egyptian president to implement agreements he concluded with the enemy will not preclude the continuation of the conflict and the struggle against the Zionist enemy with all honest and legitimate ways to restore all Arab rights.

The stand of the entire Arab nation became clear at the Baghdad summit conference, which convened 2 November 1978. This stand rejected the two agreements and all their results.

Iraq, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has consistently and firmly adhered to its principled pan-Arab stand and firmly stood on the side of the issues of our glorious Arab nation. Iraq has always placed all its resources at the support of any efforts aimed at confronting and resisting attempts at a settlement and capitulation that the Egyptian president made. It is important on this occasion to point to the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Iraq and Syria that was accomplished and prompted by deep feelings of pan-Arab responsibility and genuine spirit of fraternity. This charter is an extremely important step on the road to Arab unity and an important pan-Arab achievement in the course of strengthening Arab solidarity and confrontation of the Zionist enemy and imperialist-Zionist schemes. Victory for our struggling Arab nation and success for your struggling conference!

Report on Followup Sessions

JN260816Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] The Arab Popular Conference resumed its meetings last night in the conference hall of the General Federation of Trade Unions chaired by Brother 'Abd al-Majid Farid, chairman of the conference, and attended by the members of the fraternal Arab delegations and friendly foreign delegations participating in the conference.

At the outset of the session, Salim Salih, member of the Politburo of Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] in the PDRY, delivered a speech on behalf of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, in which he hailed the Arab popular Conference which is convening amid the grave circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing. He said that the Arab nation is facing the most vicious Zionist-imperialist-reactionary plots which are trying to pounce upon the liberties, independence and political, economic and social gains of peoples brought about by their struggle and sacrifices.

Salih Isma'il referred to the steadfastness and confrontation front and its resolutions. He also referred to the signing of the Joint National Action Charter by Syria and Iraq, and the positive results which ensued from this charter. He said that all this reflects the will of the Arab nation to repulse and stand fast against the Zionist and imperialist conspiracy and onslaught. He said that the convening of the Arab Popular Conference in steadfast Damascus embodies the Arab will which will thwart and abort all hostile machinations.

Brother 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Khamisi delivered a speech on behalf of the Egyptian Nationalist Movement in which he saluted the conference, the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and the Palestinian revolution. He condemned As-Sadat's capitulatory course and the Camp David agreements, which aim at liquidating the Palestinian issue and transforming Egypt into a bridge for the Israeli economic and cultural invasion of the Arab homeland.

Mr al-Khamisi concluded his speech by affirming that the Egyptian nationalist forces and the Egyptian people's struggle have been consolidated against As-Sadat's treasonous conspiracies.

[Name indistinct], head of the delegation of the Soviet committee for Afro-Asian solidarity, delivered a speech in which he said that the current Arab popular conference is of special importance in view of the fact that it is convening at a difficult time in the history of the Arab nation, which is facing a large-scale conspiracy led by the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction. He said that this conspiracy aims at striking at the Arab liberation movement, particularly the Palestinian resistance movement, and undermining the social and economic gains of the Arab nation. He hailed the steadfastness and confrontation front and the resolutions of the Baghdad summit conference.

He affirmed the Soviet peoples' solidarity with the Arab people's just struggle to abort the imperialist conspiracy. He pointed out that Egyptian ruler As-Sadat has become a party to the U.S. plot of a settlement in the Middle East--a plot based on holding unilateral negotiations. He said: The Egyptian leadership has taken the road of blatant treason against the interests of the Egyptian people and the Arab nation.

The evening session ended at 1930. The conference will resume its meetings at 0900 this morning to hear the speeches of the participating delegations.

Iraqi Delegate's Speech

JN261707Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 26 November--Na'im Haddad, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party, has declared that the party and the revolution in Iraq "are standing resolutely with Syria in good and bad times and will support any front of struggle on the frontlines." Haddad, who delivered the party's speech in the third working session of the emergency session of the Arab Popular Conference today, said that the sons of Iraq are prepared resolutely and courageously to defend the lands of steadfast Syria, proceeding in this from the strategic struggle principles approved by the Joint National Action Charter between the two fraternal countries.

Speaking about the designs of the enemies, Haddad said that these designs have entered the phase of imposing hegemony and capitulation on the Arab nation and liquidating its national and progressive issues in the interest of the expansionist plans of the Zionist entity.

Haddad said: Traitor As-Sadat has volunteered to implement these designs through direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy and his signing of the Camp David agreements to strike at the struggle of our Arab people in Egypt and the struggle of our nation throughout the Arab homeland. Since his visit to occupied Jerusalem, As-Sadat has doubled his traitorous activity to implement the policy of isolating Egypt from the Arab nation. He is using the policy of repression, starvation and fighting against the patriotic and pan-Arab feelings of the sons of Egypt. Our struggling people in Egypt have given great sacrifices for the sake of the Arab nation throughout its struggle against imperialism and Zionism. As-Sadat and his masters are wrong to believe that they can isolate Egypt from the Arab nation's struggle.

Haddad added: We clearly say that Syria and Iraq are confronting the plot against our nation courageously. We tell our comrades and brothers in the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement: We are with you, and you will not face the enemy alone.

'ARAFAT PRAISES SYRIA-IRAQ RELATIONS, BAGHDAD SUMMIT

JN241728Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stressed that the Palestinian resistance is the natural extension of the unified Arab action which has stemmed from the National Charter for Joint Action between Syria and Iraq. 'Arafat also replied to those who cast doubt on the unified Arab action march against the Zionist enemy. In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AN-NAHDA today, 'Arafat described Syrian-Palestinian relations as excellent. 'Arafat expressed the hope that relations between the Palestinian revolution and Jordan will return to normal. The PLO Executive Committee chairman praised the results of the Arab summit conference recently held in Baghdad and noted that 90 percent of the demands of the Palestinian resistance had been met.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL DELIVERS POLICY STATEMENT

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[Egyptian Government policy statement delivered to the People's Assembly in Cairo by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of the merciful and compassionate God, Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brother and sister members of the honorable assembly:

It gives me and my colleagues, the cabinet members, pleasure to convey our deep appreciation and respect for your honorable assembly. It honors us to be the first cabinet of the majority party--the National Democratic Party [NDP] [applause]--which is led by the nation's leader, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. [applause] This constitutes a historic development of extreme importance in the democratic structure of this assembly.

Honorable assembly members, today we are entering the phase of transition from war to peace; the phase of deepening the exercise of party democracy in cooperation with the objective and constructive opposition and under the freedom of responsible opinion, national unity, social peace and effective participating in giving advice to the government; the phase of giving the information and culture media greater freedom to carry out their effective role in building the free Egyptian man; the phase of granting all powers to the local government authorities on their various levels to solve the problems of the masses and remove their sufferings; the phase of directing the innovative resources of our toiling people and mobilizing their efforts for rebuilding the service utilities and strengthening the means of production to achieve prosperity under social justice and law that overcomes every deviation.

By virtue of our special circumstances and responsibilities in the Middle East and by virtue of our many responsibilities in the Arab and African arenas, our commitment, our people and assembly and our parties and government will remain firm in giving every attention to our armed forces to insure the improvement of their combat efficiency by means of a high standard of training, continuous modernization of their weapons and steady diversification of the sources of these weapons, and also to achieving advanced Egyptian military production.

It is absolutely clear that our heroic armed forces must remain under all circumstances the shield of Egypt and the Arab nation, and the protector of peace from the enemies of peace.

Mr Speaker, brother and sister members of the honorable assembly, the government, after agreeing with the NDP, decided to present the government statement in two complementary parts. The first part, which I have the honor of presenting to you in this session, includes the general lines I have discussed in the meeting of the party parliamentary body under the chairmanship of the party leader. This part consists of the main line of the government, which governs the various activities. It consists of five principal frameworks. These are:

1. The framework of the requirements of the transition to peace.
2. The framework of the deepening of democratic exercise.
3. The framework of the requirements of building the Egyptian individual.
4. The framework of development and construction and the realization of a society of producers.
5. The framework of the development of services and the end of the people's sufferings.

The second part will be presented to your honorable assembly or its committees by my colleagues the ministers, each in his field of responsibility. It consists of various plans and projects with figures and details and geographical distribution. They will present these to your assembly after discussing them in the committees of the NDP.

Before I begin explaining the first part of the government statement, I would like to emphasize a number of concepts:

1. We will not promise anything that we cannot fulfill, or promise something that is beyond our available resources.
2. Our method is to present all the facts to you, and to the masses through you. There is nothing we are afraid of presenting to the people, as President as-Sadat has said.
3. This stage, which is the stage of comprehensive construction, constitutes national responsibilities in which you and the citizens must participate. This stage also requires a joint popular-governmental effort.
4. Response to the demands of the masses, inasmuch as resources permit, is a principal basis of the government program.
5. The five frameworks we are presenting to you must not be viewed separately.
6. In our plan we stress the need for balance between rights and duties and for changing many wrong concepts attached to socialist concepts.
7. We will depend on the effects influencing the elements of human nature so that these effects will be the basic factor in the domains which we plan to activate or in the limitation of society's negative trends. For instance, the banking organ, credit facilities, interest rates, taxes and customs fees will serve as the means for activating the required construction domains and for limiting inflation and the trend to consume luxury articles.
8. Working with esprit de corps as one family will be the method of work, whether within the cabinet, in the cabinet's relations with the NDP or other parties, or with your esteemed assembly. Our leader, President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, has stressed the need for this method of work.

Allow me, as I deal with the framework of transformation to the phase of peace, to outline our foreign policy, which is organically related to our efforts to establish a just peace in the Middle East. This will also enable me to give you the general lines of our position on the peace negotiations. I will leave the further details to my colleague Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, who will report these details to you.

All aspects of our foreign policy are based on respect for the will of Egypt and respect for the mutual legitimate interests between us and the various states, and also on international openness to establish balanced and normal relations with the various states. We completely refuse to join the spheres of influence of the big powers or to engage in bloc policies, whether at the international or regional levels. This has constituted the backbone of our foreign policy since we refused to join foreign alliances, since the 23 July revolution.

We stand very firm against any foreign attempt to divert us from this fixed national line, whatever the international trend behind this attempt.

As far as the West is concerned, the great October victory, the historic peace initiative, and President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's efforts at the international level and with the decisionmakers in the Western states, have all caused far-reaching changes resulting in understanding of and support for Egypt's efforts to promote peace based on justice. These changes have occurred not only at the level of official and international circles, but also, and most significantly, at the level of world public opinion. Our relations with these states and the support these states have accorded our efforts now constitute one of the propelling factors in the peace process and in facing Israel with the facts of our time. Because of these changes, and thanks to the efforts of our leader, the United States is participating in U.S. President Carter's efforts to bring about the Camp David agreements. These agreements are supported by the civilized world, and they lay the foundations of a Middle East settlement. The United States and President Carter are still making efforts to boost the current peace negotiations to help these negotiations out of the bottleneck, in view of the obstacles Israel is placing in the way of Camp David decisions achieving their objective of establishing peace.

Permit me, brothers and sisters, to address, from under the dome of this your assembly, greetings from the Egyptian people to the United States, the friendly American people, and U.S. President Carter [applause] and his aides, headed by his Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, for the sincere and strenuous efforts they have exerted and continue to exert to overcome all the obstacles raised.

Western Europe now fully understands the extent of the link between a just peace in the Middle East and a stable world peace, as well as the link between European security and the security of this region. We believe that it still constitutes an asset supporting the peace process, prompted by all its interests in the area and relations with the various parties to the conflict in the Middle East.

As for the Soviet Union, its attitude has been known and clear since we freed our national will from the domination of the centers of power, since we freed our country from thousands of military experts, and since we regained our sacred territory in the glorious October War.

We are all aware of the stand the Soviet Union is taking behind the rejectionist fronts, which all have the objective of impeding the course of peace to serve their interests and the Soviet Union's interests.

Their aim is also to serve their objectives, which are quite remote from the Arab people's interest in peace. The aim of the Soviet Union's activity in Africa, in the south and in the Arab Maghreb, and also in its capacity as an international power, is to encircle and isolate Egypt. Establishing normal relations in the area is up to the leaders of the Soviet Union. Respect for the interests of Egypt and the freedom of Egypt's will is the only way to establish such normal relations. Egypt will never abandon its course nor its responsibility of respect for the sovereignty of every state in the world and rejection of any foreign interference in its affairs.

As for our relations with Eastern Europe, the leaders whose will is independent fully understand the Egyptian viewpoint and line and we are eager to preserve the friendly ties we have with them.

As for Israel, our position is firm and known since our leader voiced it in the Knesset, before world public opinion, that we are not after a separate solution or another disengagement agreement, but we seek a comprehensive solution for all the parties to the conflict in the area, and that the Palestine problem and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are the core of the Middle East question. The Middle East problem is not an Egyptian-Israeli problem but, in its essence, an Arab-Israeli problem. There will be no peace in the Middle East unless the Palestine question is solved. Therefore, Egypt will not respond to any Israeli attempt to achieve a separate agreement. Israel must face the facts about the establishment of a permanent peace in the Middle East, and it must face up to its responsibility to itself, its people and the world.
[applause]

As for the Arab brothers, Egypt is the heart of the Arab world and nobody can isolate it. Egypt's position is one of shouldering its main responsibilities of recovering the Arab territory, achieving Israeli withdrawal and laying the bases that will enable self-determination for the Palestinian people. This commitment is the destiny of Arab Egypt. It is also a responsibility that it shoulders toward the Arab people in general and the Palestinian people in particular. In shouldering this responsibility, Egypt joined in four wars and sacrificed thousands of its sons and scored the great October victory which paved the way to the peace negotiations, from a position of glory.

The attitudes of the rulers of the rejection front will not change the historic and real weight of Egypt as the sword, heart and shield of its Arab nation. The Arab people will judge that they have erred when the dust of their battles of rhetoric settles.

We sincerely thank our Arab brothers who understand our position.

As far as the Lebanese tragedy is concerned, Egypt condemns all foreign interference with the Lebanese sides and supports Lebanon's territorial unity.

Regarding our relations with the rising nations in the (?Far) East, especially China, Egypt is developing constructive relations of friendship and cooperation with them, characterized by mutual understanding and mutual interests.

Egypt is a part of the Third World and of its continent, Africa. This fact places on its shoulders responsibilities of common destiny. It rejects all kinds of foreign intervention in Africa.

The second framework of our pan-Arab strategy is an integral part of the first framework of transformation to the phase of peace. This second framework is the consolidation of democratic rule. This priority is not based only on the fact that democracy is a social and political need for which our people have struggled throughout their long history as one of their authentic rights. In this phase of comprehensive construction, this priority is a prerequisite for the success of all the other frameworks of the process for building a free man and confirming his dignity. This priority is also a prerequisite for the success of economic and social development.

Brothers, the government's plan is built on the concepts I mentioned earlier for the deepening of democracy. Through preparation and reform, this plan extends to all aspects of our life. Democracy is more of an exercising of democratic rule than a mere document. Democracy is also an ethical commitment before being a legal commitment. Above everything else, democracy means that the people should rule themselves by themselves.

Led by President as-Sadat, our people overthrew the centers of power on 15 May so that the sovereignty of the law would emerge in order to safeguard the security, dignity and freedom of the Egyptian man. This action was the cornerstone of the edifice of a democratic and sound system.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat led all the people in the battle of confrontation which was waged to protect our socialist and democratic system from those who wanted to overthrow this system. The president referred this entire matter to the people through a free referendum. The people then expressed their will. They determined that they will not permit the restoration of the prerevolution system, just as they had expressed their will in denouncing the totalitarian regime and in preventing all those who had adopted the principles of theism or servility from influencing public opinion in order to overthrow the regime.

The entrenchment of our national democracy required our leader to enter the arena of party democracy in order to lead our people in safeguarding and confirming their democratic gains. Therefore, our leader assumed the leadership of the NDP around which the sweeping majority of the masses rapidly rallied and in which the people's representatives have occupied prominent positions.

The Information Ministry was also abolished within the framework of deepening democracy. This was done in accordance with a new philosophy which believes in removing the obstacles barring the way to the freedom of information work. This philosophy also believes in removing information work from the scope of the state's direct guidance and allowing this work to surge toward broad vistas resting on patriotic and ethical values which are derived from the great pan-Arab objectives. These vistas will be governed by the conscience of those working in the information media and by their pan-Arab loyalty in a manner devoid of government guardianship. Meanwhile, the people will be provided with the opportunity to express their views.

Therefore, a bill has been prepared to reorganize the radio and television union. This bill will achieve for the union all the elements and factors of intellectual, financial and administrative independence. It will also vest all powers and responsibilities in a council of trustees consisting of intellectuals, men of letters, artists, economists and financiers, administrators, members of the judiciary and newsmen. This council will formulate plans and make policy.

Members delegated by the council of trustees will manage the sectors of the union. These members will wield full powers within the framework of the council's decisions.

This bill has been referred to the NDP for discussion in preparation for submitting it to those committees of your esteemed assembly which you will want to select. This has been done so that this bill will be drafted in its final form and will consequently be submitted to the People's Assembly.

A prominent landmark of this plan is that it abolishes the government's direct supervision of the union and turns the minister of state for cabinet affairs into a liaison between the union and the government and your esteemed assembly, without the minister assuming ministerial powers in the traditional sense. Proceeding from the same concept, the information authority will be developed in order to create opportunities for making headway in work within the framework of liberal information concepts. To complete the development of the information sector within the framework of the intellectual open-door policy, and insofar as the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY and the national company for dissemination are concerned, it is proposed to convert them into two establishments subject to the new organization for press establishments, because these two bodies are closely connected with journalistic work, and to consequently and appropriately move them out of the scope of government supervision.

The matter is different where the Ministry of Culture is concerned. In this respect, abolition is not the government's objective. However, the objective is to reorganize the cultural sector in such a way that the guardianship of the government and of the traditional government organs over cultural work will be lifted. It is also the government's objective to provide the Egyptian intelligentsia with the opportunity to assume their responsibility for serving the pan-Arab objectives within the framework of national values. An integrated bill regulating cultural affairs in Egypt has been prepared. We will submit this bill for discussion by the party and the assembly committees. We will then submit it to your esteemed assembly.

In the domain of consolidating democracy, it is imperative to reorganize the relationship with the press after the press has become the fourth authority in the country. It is an authority deriving from the need for us to commit ourselves to respecting public opinion as expressed by the press. During this period, the law regulating press affairs will be submitted to your esteemed assembly. In this respect, the government has formed an organ at the premier's office to compile the issues and viewpoints raised by the press. This organ will then send these issues and viewpoints to all the ministries so that they will be taken into account and given due attention in order to learn the masses' requirements and implement the requirements which will be raised.

Furthermore, the press is the authority of popular supervision in its fullest meaning. Therefore, the government will fully take into account what is meant in this respect in order to deal with any negligence or deviation. The government is fully prepared to provide newspapers with all the statements they request in order to study any subject.

Brother assembly members, in raising the third framework of the government's pan-Arab strategy--the framework of building the Egyptian man--we state that the government believes that the Egyptian man is the means and goal of all its internal and external activities. The government also believes that the framework of transformation to the phase of peace and the framework of consolidating democracy constitute the atmosphere required for building the free Egyptian man.

In the domain of education, the government's aim is to overcome illiteracy through the full schooling of all children of compulsory education age, and to plan the construction of village schools, procure the appropriate numbers of teachers and raise their educational level by improving the standards of educational colleges in the regional universities, encouraging the citizens to contribute to the construction of school buildings, and encouraging the expansion of specialized language schools to carry out the activities ensuing from the open-door policy.

Concerning higher education, the government plan calls for making higher education a part of a comprehensive and balanced plan for education as a whole. This plan also includes eliminating shortages in resources such as equipment and libraries, consolidating research aimed at serving the environment, and dedicating efforts to improve the teaching staff so that the university will become a beacon of education, culture and educational research. Studies are being conducted in order to deal with the negative aspects of crowded classrooms.

The government believes that raising the health standards of the Egyptian citizen is an important part of the process of rebuilding the lives of these citizens. Therefore, the government is dedicating its attention to promoting preventive services, raising first aid and emergency services, focusing attention on the basic health services, including maternity and child; devoting attention to the health of school children; and developing work in out-patient clinics. This includes polyclinics, specialized clinics and clinics of government hospitals. The government is turning its attention to expanding and developing the health insurance scheme to enable large sectors of the people to benefit from this scheme. The government also aims to procure sufficient supplies of medicines at appropriate prices and to eliminate medicine shortages both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Concerning the population explosion and the anti-illiteracy campaign, the government believes that two important issues are affecting all the national development programs: the population explosion and the elimination of illiteracy.

As far as facing deviation and deviators is concerned, the government focuses its attention on all the establishments dealing with the protection of values and on strengthening these establishments as a preventive basis against all kinds of deviation. In the domain of building the Egyptian man, the government shows great interest in facing deviation and deviators. The government will devote special attention to the protection of public funds from deviators and also from those who trade with the people's livelihood on the black market.

In the domain of justice, the government believes that the building of the Egyptian man cannot be completed except in an atmosphere of achieving the sovereignty of the law, respecting the law, and reassuring the Egyptian man about his money and about himself and his family.

The government has decided to confine the use of its powers stipulated in the emergency law to the short-term cases dictated by the requirements of national security and of the homeland's safety. Therefore, agreement has been reached with the attorney general that the public prosecution will refer the cases listed below, which had been under the jurisdiction of the extraordinary state security courts, to the ordinary courts for the handing down of verdicts, on the understanding that special court circuits will be named in order to consider these cases and settle them quickly so as to achieve the element of deterrence.

Agreement has been reached on referring the following cases to ordinary courts effective 1 December 1978: crimes of [word indistinct]; crimes of embezzlement and seizure of public funds; crimes of theft; crimes perpetrated by means of newspapers, crimes of hampering communications; crimes punishable in accordance with the law on arms and ammunitions; crimes punishable in accordance with the law on financing and (?determining) income; crimes punishable by Law 89 of 1960 on the entry and residence of aliens in Egyptian territory and their departure from this territory; crimes punishable in accordance with mobilization Law 87 of 1960 on the appointment of some persons to posts in the War Ministry; crimes of the seizure of certain supply materials, public places and transport means useful to the war effort; crimes perpetrated in violation of Law 137 of 1963 on [word indistinct] proficiency, educational qualifications and investments; and crimes perpetrated in violation of Law 189 of 1958 on compelling the public establishments to report their employees, their qualifications and their salaries.

However, the following cases will continue to be under the jurisdiction of the state security courts:

1. Cases connected with the state's security at home and abroad;
2. Cases connected with assembly, public meetings, demonstrations, and sit-ins if they endanger social peace and national unity;
3. Cases concerning violation of Law 2 of 1977 on the [word indistinct], including cases of hostile organizations, sabotage, strikes and tax evasion;
4. Cases involving explosives.

Despite the importance of these cases for the state's security at home and abroad, the public prosecution will have the right to assess which of these cases should be referred to the state security courts or should be kept under the jurisdiction of ordinary courts, on the understanding that the referral of these cases to the state security courts is the prerogative of the public prosecution. The government will devote attention to raising the efficiency of those working in the judicial bodies and to improving the means and the conditions of these workers. Furthermore, the government will submit to your esteemed assembly two bills on the supreme constitutional court and the socialist prosecutor. We hope that your esteemed assembly will pass these bills into law during the present parliamentary period.

Security and the citizen. In the domain of security, the government emphasizes that work in this domain is organically linked to the activities of society in its political, economic and social domains--this work being influenced by, and influencing, these domains at the same time. If the stability of security is a strategic goal at all times, this goal will be confirmed in the phase of peace in view of the enormous changes which will be brought about by this phase. These changes will be aimed at providing security and safety for the citizens to enable them to attain ambitious development levels and enjoy a secure and prosperous life.

The government is devoting its attention to developing the means and methods of achieving security; expanding the use of technical and scientific methods for the detection of crime; developing all the laws, bylaws and procedures related to services rendered to the citizens; and showing interest in developing the national defense utilities and providing full protection to the economic establishments and the public utilities. The government will also dedicate special attention to insuring discipline in the Egyptian streets. It will also devote its attention to providing care for those working in the police force and to increasing their salaries.

Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brother and sister members of the honorable assembly, the fourth framework of the government's national strategy aims at achieving comprehensive economic development by increasing production, achieving a society of producers and providing the necessary national and foreign investments. The most dangerous thing we would like to draw attention to in this sphere is the mistaken belief that prosperity will automatically come with the onset of the era of peace. Equally dangerous is the mistaken belief that foreign aid and investments are substitutes for employing our indigenous resources and potential and gathering and investing our national savings.

To avoid these dangers, we need a national plan in which we employ the Egyptian work force, which is our most precious possession and our main asset. We need a plan to encourage diverting our national investments to production spheres, limiting our dependence on imports and reducing our consumption of luxury goods. This requires efficient employment of several economic factors. Training that is no less efficient than our skills, and providing the necessary expertise, not only to meet the requirements of development and reconstruction but also to meet our Arab and African responsibilities.

All this requires lateral integrated plans. My colleagues the ministers will submit these plans to you, each minister in the field of his responsibility.

Accordingly, the government's plan in the production sphere aims at an integrated economic development. This will be done on the basis of increasing the production and effectiveness of the available resources and potential and extensively increasing the benefits we receive from them. This will also be done by applying pure scientific logic--which aims at reaching drastic solutions of problems and provides the opportunities for increased production--free from bureaucratic restrictions and obstacles.

All this will be done within the framework of a comprehensive outlook that will concentrate on rebuilding instead of repairing. It will affirm decentralization as the general mode of administration and transfer the authority for decision-making to the worksites. This outlook calls for developing information-gathering and followup systems. It supports the public sector and affirms its leading role in national economy.

Production activity in its various dimensions will depend on a group of main policies to which the government will adhere. The government will consult the various production units and levels about these policies before making any decisions. This will achieve integration among the plans, being about clarity of vision, and enable us to avoid the trial and error methods.

These policies concentrate on strengthening an open production policy through:

1. Putting all facts before foreign or Egyptian investors to enable them to get acquainted with the fields in which they can participate or those projects which the government will implement alone through the public sector, affirming the organic link between the national development plan and the investment projects within the framework of the open-door policy, and simplifying the transactions for Egyptian, Arab and Foreign investors. This will expedite the adoption of decisions and remove obstacles and difficulties. This will show that we are serious and not reluctant. The investors will feel assured. We can win the confidence of the investors by not going back on any decision made after a realistic study and scientific research of the feasibility of any project.

2. The economic decisions in the field of Arab and foreign investment must achieve the country's national interests. The government will not hesitate to offer all the necessary facilities to the foreign investors, particularly the Arab brothers. In order to achieve this, the government will amend the composition and jurisdictions of the higher investment council in order to promote the open-door policy and support the national economy.

3. The government will work to develop the public sector and support its production potential by freeing the public sector firms from the shackles of administrative subservience to the ministries and developing the relationship between these firms and the government. This will enable the public sector firms to develop positively and will give them increasing ability to participate in the national development plan.

4. Affirming the responsibility of the public sector firms for administering the capital funds invested in these firms in accordance with scientific economic administration methods. Therefore, these firms must meet their production targets and achieve a surplus commensurate with their activity and the prevailing rates of returns on investment in such activity. The government will submit to your honorable assembly its full plan in this field. This requires the introduction of fundamental amendments to the laws organizing the public sector. This will put the public sector on an equal footing with the firms operating under the law on Arab and foreign capital investment.

5. The government will work to coordinate the relationship between the public and private sectors. This will be done by allocating projects of national and strategic importance for the public sector alone or in participation with private national capital funds or Arab and foreign capital funds. The government will release opportunities for the national private sector to participate positively and effectively in economic development, such as industry, trade, tourism, agriculture and other fields. Thus economic democracy will be achieved by limiting the state's activities to the basic projects which are of national interest and public benefit, or which the private sector cannot carry out, or which are inherently monopolistic.

Concerning foreign economic cooperation and the rapid use of loans and credit facilities, the government will devote special attention to discussing the means for increasing the effectiveness of foreign loans and aid and removing the obstacles obstructing rapid use. The general rate for using these loans has reached only 61 percent.

The government has unified supervision of foreign trade and economic cooperation to provide the proper atmosphere for the integration of policies and decisions in this vital field.

The government will give priority to economic rationalization of the potential incorporated in the plan. It will allocate funds for completing projects which are under construction and operating these projects as soon as possible. In choosing new projects, the government will concentrate on projects with the potential for rapid return to enable the national economy to obtain quick positive results that will help meet the increasing needs. Therefore, the Suez Canal projects, the tourism projects and projects to employ idle potential in the various sectors of production will receive special attention by the government.

In the field of controlling prices and rationalizing their movement by scientific study and achieving serious control on cost factors and profit margins, the government will always consult with your honorable assembly regarding any price changes dictated by the circumstances of national economy or universal economic fluctuations.

Brothers and sisters, it is appropriate for me to throw some light on the basic features of some of the main sectors in the state, leaving their investments and aims and the details of the projects to my colleagues the ministers, who will submit to you complete statements on the state's general budget, the 1979 development plan and the oil budget.

In the petroleum sphere, the petroleum plan aims at reaching a production of 28.5 million tons by the end of 1979, and 50 million tons in 1982. In order to achieve this, two oil prospecting agreements will be signed this year and five more in 1979, in addition to 45 agreements signed with 30 international companies since 1973. The areas for oil prospecting will cover 500,000 square kilometers. The government also aims to increase exports of crude oil and oil byproducts from 122 million pounds in 1976 to 320 million pounds in 1979, and to 625 million pounds in 1982. Thus, petroleum production will help improve the balance of payments and bring in a great amount of foreign currency.

In the industry sphere, the government will apply a new policy for the 1979 plan. The main features of this policy concentrate on vertical and horizontal expansion on the basis of giving priority to projects for replacement and renewal of factories and giving attention to reopening the big factories, particularly the textile factories. The government will seek to achieve this by concluding agreements with the IBRD and the Agency for International Development. The government will encourage the private sector and will help it obtain loans to promote its production capacity. The 1979 plan envisages that the production of the private industrial sector will reach 902 million pounds, compared with 820 million pounds in 1978.

In the mining sphere, the government will concentrate its efforts on the good utilization of the phosphate, iron and aluminum projects and increasing their production output to meet local requirements and achieve a surplus for export to help improve the balance of payments. The government aims at achieving total export earnings of 323 million pounds in 1979, compared with 285 million pounds in 1978--an increase of 13 percent. Sinai will be included in the mining plan, depending on the outcome of the peace talks.

In the sphere of agriculture and land reclamation, the government's policy in 1979 will be based on vertical and horizontal agricultural development. The ministers of agriculture, irrigation and land reclamation will submit detailed plans of their projects in these spheres, including the areas and the timetables for implementing every project.

Mr Speaker of the People's Assembly, brother and sister members of the assembly, the fifth framework of the government's national strategy aims at alleviating the suffering of the people and improving services. Priorities are centered on the fields of housing, supply, transport and communications. I would like to brief your excellencies on some basic points which will govern our future behavior concerning these priorities with a view to ending this suffering through the cooperation of all government and popular organizations.

In the sphere of housing and reconstruction, in accordance with our commitment to face the people with facts, it is necessary for all of us to know that so far licenses have been issued for demolishing 100,000 dilapidated buildings, and we cannot build this number of houses. The problem is further exacerbated by the population increase. Hence, in allocating houses, the government gives priority to sheltering those who have dilapidated homes.

Concerning transport and communications, the government has prepared serious and long-term plans aimed at providing sufficient transport facilities and telecommunications services and carrying out the necessary repairs according to timetables known to the people in advance. The government has also prepared a plan to improve the railroad network. The minister of transport and communications will explain all this to your excellencies.

In the sphere of aviation, the government's program is based on developing domestic airports and providing them with power generators and air-conditioning units. The government will take executive steps to build an international airport in Al-Amiriyah. The government will strengthen the air fleet to serve air traffic movement and improve passenger services. The government will also complete the installations at Cairo international airport.

Agreement has been reached among the ministries of housing, transport and communications and the governorate of Cairo on one hand and the armed forces on the other to utilize the potential available to the armed forces to remove the bottlenecks and help avoid the causes for the people's complaint, without jeopardizing the armed forces' capabilities and needs.

KHALIL DISCUSSES MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS

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[Text] At the end of the meeting of the Higher Committee for Egyptian-Israeli Negotiations chaired by Vice President Husni Mubarak today, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the committee has prepared a draft working paper on the Egyptian position. He said the committee will resume its meetings tomorrow morning to put the working paper in its final form. The working paper will then be submitted to President Anwar as-Sadat.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the committee proposes that the Egyptian-Israeli discussions should be resumed on the basis of placing the Egyptian remarks on the negotiating table. He said that the ministers in the Egyptian delegation have been summoned for consultations so that they will be well informed on the measures that have been taken.

Dr Mustafa Khalil added that during the committee meetings it was agreed to prepare a working paper in which the Egyptian views on two basic points will be clarified. These points are: 1) The question of linkage between the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and the agreement on the measures that should be followed to establish self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as timetables to guarantee the respect of the parties to the dispute for the implementation of the agreement; 2) that our remarks on some of the articles of the agreement and the spirit of the agreement agreed on at Camp David are that a comprehensive settlement should be achieved between the parties of the Middle East dispute and that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement should be part of the settlement agreement. This means that an agreement between Egypt and Israel alone absolutely will not guarantee a stable peace.

Then there is the disagreement on Article 6: Egypt is committed to the joint defense agreement and to collective security among the Arab states. Egypt believes that as long as the peace treaty will be comprehensive among all the sides, the application of such a commitment will not be a point of controversy between us and Israel.

However, if a separate agreement were to be concluded between Egypt and Israel, the point of controversy will be very big, particularly since each state's right to legitimate self-defense does not preclude it from entering into an agreement with any state, no matter what the formula of such an agreement may be. For example, if Israel were to attack Egypt, Egypt would defend itself according to the UN Charter.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said: We insist on clarifying these points. The need to reach a comprehensive peace agreement is actually in the interest of all the parties in the Middle East. When we say there must be a correlation between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, this means we are removing a main point of controversy because of which any kind of conflict or war may arise in the future between Israel and its neighbors.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said: Egypt, therefore, has a sincere attitude toward the issue of peace. This attitude affirms Egypt's concern for peace. This attitude is also in line with the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreement. President Anwar as-Sadat has always stated that there will be no separate agreement because a separate agreement will not solve the issue. The aim is to solve the issue and not conclude a separate agreement.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said: The higher committee prepared a working paper which was submitted for scrutiny at the meeting held this evening. However, the committee introduced some amendments and clarifications. The committee will meet tomorrow to prepare the working paper in its final form.

The prime minister added: Egypt does not say, as Israel has said in the words of its justice minister, "we take this or we leave this because it completely conflicts with the spirit of the Camp David agreement." We say we are ready to enter into peace provided that there is a comprehensive agreement and provided that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is part of this agreement.

Dr Mustafa Khalil said: When we say that the negotiations will continue until we reach a peace agreement and not a separate agreement, we say this is because a separate agreement will not solve the problem, and war and conflict will continue to exist. For the agreement to be comprehensive, it must be among the parties to the conflict, which are Egypt, Palestine and the situation in Gaza and the West Bank. [sentence as heard] Also, what will apply to Sinai will apply to the Golan Heights.

Dr Mustafa Khalil concluded his statement by saying: It cannot be said that the Arabs who met in Baghdad rejected the peace talks formula. What they rejected is the method we have followed. He said that Egypt has the right to choose the path compatible with its interest or its views of how the problem can be solved. Not one of them has said that Israel is adopting an intransigent attitude which does not serve the cause of peace.

CAIRO REPORTS AS-SADAT'S STATEMENT ON DRAFT PAPER

NC270705Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat announced after his meeting yesterday with the Higher Committee for Peace Negotiations that it has been decided to introduce some amendments to the draft prepared by the committee on the Washington negotiations. He said he will meet with the committee members again on 28 November to prepare a final report on the issue.

President as-Sadat said that Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will meet with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts to ask him to inform President Carter that President as-Sadat will send him a message tomorrow on the current situation.

President as-Sadat said that he is still optimistic despite the problems facing the negotiations. He emphasized that the peace agreement will be signed sooner or later.

AL-AHRAM OUTLINES POSITION ON PEACE TREATY

NC250751Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0654 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 November--The newspaper AL-AHRAM says today that within hours Egypt will define its final position regarding the proposed draft peace treaty and the linkage between the treaty and the future of the West Bank and Gaza, on which Egypt has insisted in accordance with its fixed policy regarding the necessity of achieving a comprehensive settlement.

President Anwar as-Sadat will make his decision in the light of the full political report of the technical committee for peace negotiations.

The technical committee is scheduled to meet this morning under the chairmanship of Vice President Husni Mubarak. The meeting will be attended by People's Assembly Speaker Sufi Abu Talib, Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz. The committee will prepare an official memorandum containing Egypt's viewpoint. This memorandum will be reviewed by President Anwar as-Sadat and will then be sent to U.S. President Jimmy Carter. It will spell out Egypt's position and decision and will also give the reasons for its attitude. The aim is to establish peace between Egypt and Israel at the same time the formation of the full self-rule institutions is completed in the West Bank and Gaza in the manner defined by President Anwar as-Sadat during the Camp David meetings, which was contained in the two agreements signed at the White House on 17 September.

The paper says that the approval of the treaty depends on the introduction of certain amendments and also on agreement to exchange letters on the West Bank and the Gaza sector, on the handling of the Palestine problem, and on commitment to a timetable for all the steps setting up complete self-rule and its institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM says that the Egyptian attitude to the peace negotiations can be summed up in the following points:

1. That Egypt is willing to make the U.S. proposals regarding a timetable committing Israel as far as the West Bank and Gaza is concerned a basis for discussion at the negotiations which may be resumed in Washington.
2. That the dimensions, the real contents and the objectives of the provisions of the proposed treaty can only be determined through a review of the three appendixes to it and the letters exchanged to complement the treaty.
3. That some provisions of the treaty as published by AL-AHRAM yesterday have been redrafted and translated into Arabic.

The paper also says that Egypt has prepared a detailed study of the provisions of the proposed treaty and its interpretation, which AL-AHRAM is exclusively publishing today and which includes the following points:

1. Regarding the link between the peace treaty and a comprehensive settlement, the preamble of the treaty includes clear passages confirming the connection and complete link between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the achievement of a comprehensive settlement, in the following provisions:

A. Confirmation of the commitment of both sides to the implementation of the framework for peace in the Middle East as agreed upon at Camp David.

B. This framework is the basis of peace not only between Egypt and Israel but also between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

C. The achievement of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is an important step toward comprehensive peace and toward the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

D. Invitation to the other Arab sides to participate in the peace process on the basis of the principles of the framework for peace.

E. Clear statement that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the free exercise of sovereignty.

2. Regarding complete withdrawal from the Egyptian territory, Article 1 of the text of the proposed treaty stipulates termination of the state of war and the establishment of peace on the basis of withdrawal of all the Israeli armed and civilian forces from Sinai in accordance with a specific timetable, and reinstatement of Egypt's complete sovereignty over all its territory.

3. Regarding Egypt's international borders:

A. The treaty stipulates that the permanent borders between Egypt and Israel are the internationally recognized borders.

B. This does not prejudice the special position of the Gaza sector.

C. Noninfringement of these borders and respect for the territorial integrity of both sides, including territorial waters and airspace.

4. Regarding relations:

Relations between Egypt and Israel shall be governed by the provisions of the UN Charter and the principles of international law in times of peace. Article 3 says that the charter stipulates:

A. Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state.

B. Refraining from the threat to use force and from the use of force.

C. Settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

5. Regarding security arrangements:

A. Security is a necessity for both sides and is based on the fact that reciprocity requires the establishment of limited arms areas and the presence of UN forces and international observers.

B. Formation of a joint committee to observe and facilitate the implementation of the treaty.

C. These arrangements may be revised or amended by agreement between the two sides.

6. Regarding free navigation:

A. Free navigation in the Suez Canal, permitting Israeli ships and cargo to pass through the canal in accordance with the provisions of the Constantinople Agreement.

B. Passage of Israeli ships and cargo through the Tiran Strait and the Gulf of 'Aqaba. Each side has a right to pass through the strait and the gulf to reach its own territory.

7. Regarding the commitments, this is one of the most important and crucial articles, because it contains the following stipulations:

A. That the treaty does not prejudice the rights and commitments of the two sides under the UN Charter.

B. That the two sides will honor their commitments with good will.

C. That steps shall be taken to make the multiparty agreements in which Egypt and Israel are members applicable to the two states.

D. That there shall be an undertaking not to make commitments contradictory to the provisions of this treaty.

8. Regarding arbitration and the settlement of disputes:

A. The treaty stipulates that disagreement as to the implementation of its provisions or to its interpretation shall be settled by negotiation.

B. That in the event of failure of the negotiations, conciliation should be used.

C. If the disagreement is not resolved through conciliation, it should be referred to arbitration.

9. Regarding compensation, the relevant article provides for the formation of a compensation committee to settle claims.

10. Regarding the final provisions:

A. The treaty shall become effective when its instruments of ratification are exchanged.

B. This treaty shall replace the second disengagement agreement.

C. The appendixes, protocols, and maps attached are an integral part of the treaty.

D. The UN secretary general shall be notified so that he will register the treaty at the United Nations.

AL-AHRAM says that some amendments have been made to the translation which was published today. The following is the text:

Points four and five of the preamble stipulate that:

While noting that the framework referred to is meant to form a basis for peace not only between Egypt and Israel but also between Israel and any of its neighbors, each side where it is concerned, provided that they are prepared to negotiate for peace on this basis; and, while inviting the other Arab parties to the conflict, to participate in the peace process with Israel on the basis of and in the light of the framework for peace referred to.

PLO'S AL-FAHUM, DELEGATION ARRIVE; HOPE TO RESUME DIALOG

JN251223Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, arrived in Amman from Damascus via Ar-Ramtha today at the head of a PLO delegation. The delegation consists of Khalid al-Hasan and Mahmud 'Abbas, members of the Fatah Central Committee; and Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department and secretary general of the As-Sa'iqa Organization. The visit is aimed at resuming the dialog between Jordanian officials and the PLO.

In a statement on arrival, Al-Fahum lauded the role His Majesty King Husayn had played to bring about the success of the Baghdad summit conference by stressing the need to pool all Arab resources to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. Al-Fahum expressed the hope that fruitful relations and positive cooperation will be achieved in order to have unity of Arab ranks and Arab interests, foremost of which are the firm rights of the Palestinian people in their occupied land.

Al-Fahum and the accompanying delegation were received at Ar-Ramtha border point by Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar, the governor of Irbid, the provincial governor of Ar-Ramtha and representatives of the Foreign Ministry.

The interior minister welcomed the visiting delegation and wished them a good stay in Jordan.

Talks Begin in Amman

JN251557Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 25 November--The first round of talks between the Jordanian and the Palestinian sides was held at noon today at the Prime Ministry. The talks lasted 1 and 1/2 hours and reviewed the general Arab situation and the Palestinian cause on the Arab and international levels.

The Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran also included Dr 'Abd as-Salam al-Majali, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of education; 'Adnan Abu'awdah, minister of information; Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman 'Arar, minister of the interior; and Mr Shawkat Mahmud, chief of the Executive Bureau for the Affairs of the Occupied Territories.

The Palestinian side led by Mr Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, included Khalid al-Hasan and Mahmud 'Abbas, members of Fatah Central Committee; and Zuhayr Muhsin, head of the PLO Military Department and secretary general of As-Sa'iqa Organization.

At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister welcomed the PLO delegation and stressed Jordan's pan-Arab commitment, drawn up by His Majesty King Husayn, to support the Palestinian people in their efforts to restore their national rights on their soil and homeland. He stressed the importance of this dialog between the Jordanian Government and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Mr Badran expressed the hope that the talks will yield the desired results in the interest of the Arab causes, especially those of Palestine.

Mr al-Fahum replied to the prime minister's speech and thanked him. He expressed the PLO's appreciation for the role of His Majesty King Husayn in formulating the Jordanian pan-Arab stand on the Palestinian revolution. This role manifested itself clearly in the summit conference recently held in Baghdad. Mr al-Fahum expressed the pleasure of the PLO delegation with the resumption of the dialog with the Jordanian Government. He shared the prime minister's hope that this dialog will yield results beneficial to the Palestinian problem which is the primary Arab cause.

26 Nov Meeting

JN262136Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The Jordanian side under Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Palestinian side under Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, held a 3-hour meeting this evening at the Prime Ministry. The meeting laid down the issues and the basic rules for dealing with the agenda. The main issues to be discussed are the joint work and coordination concerning the Palestinian cause in the political field on both the Arab and international levels, and practical ways and means to insure the backing of the steadfastness of the Arab people of Palestine in the occupied territories.

In view of the joint work and coordination between Jordan and the PLO at this stage through which the Palestinian cause is passing, the two sides agreed to place their bilateral relations within a positive framework of objectivity, taking into consideration past experience and the need to avoid past mistakes. In this framework the two sides affirmed the principles of the independence of Palestinian action and the noninterference of any side in the affairs of the other in order to insure the safety of joint action leading to the achievement of a just peace in the region, based on complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination and to establishment of an independent state on their homeland.

Al-Fahum Interview

JN270952Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Nov 78 p 11 JN

[Text of interview with Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, by AL-AKHBAR correspondent Sihayr Salti at-Tal--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What are your expectations concerning negotiations with Jordan and their possible extent?

Answer: At the beginning, I can say that we are proceeding from the fact that relations linking the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are special and characteristic. They are historical and geographical relations, relations of the present, the future and of one destiny. It was inevitable that these relations would have an impact on the relations between the Jordanian and PLO officials.

The Baghdad summit conference largely influenced the Arabs' march on the road to discarding all marginal differences and not letting the basic contradictions outweigh certain differences between this or that country. Before the Baghdad summit, the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement took place and, as we know, the joint pan-Arab statement largely influenced the success of the Baghdad summit, raised the morale of the sons of Palestine, especially in the occupied territories and everywhere. Stress was also put on the necessity to remove any differences between Jordan and the PLO. This position was adopted by His Majesty King Husayn and by Brother Yasir 'Arafat too. Our visit to Jordan now aims at starting a dialog for solid joint cooperation and coordination with the Jordanian brother officials to foil the self-rule scheme designed to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to give Israel and the occupation a legal aspect concerning the Israeli occupation and annexation of Palestinian lands, foremost of which is Jerusalem.

Therefore, the aim behind the visit and the negotiations is to establish close political cooperation between the PLO and Jordanian officials and to work together to formulate a working plan to implement these regulations in the Arab and international arenas. Cooperation between Jordan and the PLO will serve in supporting the steadfastness and raising the morale of the people and in strengthening their determination and entrenching their firm positions on the self-rule scheme and on the rejection of this self-rule, which is a conspiracy against the Palestinian cause.

[paragraph continues]

Therefore, the visit aims at establishing cooperation and coordination in the political and information fields on the bases of the Rabat and Baghdad summits.

Question: In light of the above, are you optimistic as to the results of these negotiations?

Answer: So far, we have held two meetings with the Jordanian delegation under Prime Minister Mudar Badran. We have had also the opportunity to meet with His Majesty King Husayn. Discussions, whether with the Jordanian delegation under the prime minister or with his majesty, have been frank, clear and positive. Therefore, I can say that I am optimistic, more than at any time before, that these talks will achieve the aspired results, proceeding from the necessity of cooperation to discard marginal differences and to unite efforts on the bases of the Arab summit conferences in Rabat and Baghdad so we can repulse the Zionist onslaught and end the Israeli occupation of our homeland.

Question: Will Yasir 'Arafat be visiting Jordan later to participate in the talks?

Answer: At present, we are conducting preliminary talks. In my opinion these preliminary talks will be followed by more detailed ones at all levels. It is certain that brother Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan in the near future.

Question: Are the talks with Jordan part of a plan to form an Arab alliance in the area comprising Iraq, Syria, Jordan and the PLO?

Answer: We in the PLO are always calling for Arab solidarity established on solid, explicit and clear bases to insure withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. When I say that we aspire to establish all kinds of cooperation and coordination with all the brothers in all Arab countries, I specifically mean the confrontation states which are shouldering the largest burden of confronting the Israeli onslaught--Syria, Jordan and the PLO. We are glad that the required coordination is taking place in Iraq and also with any other official in any other Arab country.

Question: Do you expect that the northern-eastern front would be revived and what is the PLO's role in such a revival?

Answer: As I have mentioned, the PLO is for any joint Arab effort based on solid foundations aimed at achieving clear objectives. Therefore, the revival of the northern front is something we at the PLO aspire to and for whose success we spend our maximum efforts. However, this issue does not depend on us alone. It depends on the officials of these countries.

Question: After the Baghdad summit, there was talk about the PLO recognizing Resolution 242. What are your comments about this subject?

Answer: The PLO's political positions are formulated by its National Council, which is its supreme authority. The Palestine National Council has affirmed that the PLO cannot accept Resolution 242 because it ignores the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. Therefore, any talk about the PLO accepting this resolution is ruled out now and in the future.

Question: How far has the actual unification among Palestinian factions gone in the Palestinian arena?

Answer: True, there have been differences among the factions of the resistance. However, these differences are marginal in comparison to the Camp David agreement and the conspiracy of the self-rule. [paragraph continues]

The leaders of the PLO and the resistance factions believe that all efforts should be centered now to oppose self-rule and to foil the Camp David agreements. Therefore, all have agreed on a political program which has been approved by all the factions of the resistance and by all the patriotic forces of the Palestinian people. They have agreed on a political program for the next stage. It is an organizational program and will become final following the approval of the Palestine National Council. This council is scheduled to convene in Damascus in mid-January. We shall certainly achieve national unity.

Press Comments on Dialog

JN261234Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In their editorials today, the Jordanian papers concentrate on resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialog. The papers assert that the resumption of the dialog is a pan-Arab necessity that stresses the joint commitment to the pan-Arab responsibility and genuine desire for constructive work for the same cause.

AR-RA'Y says: No doubt that the unity of existence and destiny linking the Palestinian and Jordanian people has prompted resumption of the dialog between Jordan and the PLO. Also, no doubt that His Majesty King Husayn's firm and pan-Arab stand toward the Palestine question and Jordan's constant commitment to support the Palestinian people to regain their national right in their homeland have contributed to a great extent in paving the way for the resumption of dialog between the PLO and Jordan to serve the Palestine question and to achieve the supreme pan-Arab interests.

As the aim which the PLO and we are nurturing is to enable the Palestinian people to attain their goal of regaining their usurped rights, the logic of events at this grave stage in particular dictate that we rise to a level of responsible dialog through total assessment of the situation and consideration of the current factors of the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Thus, we hope that the PLO delegation, whose leader did not hesitate to express appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stand at the Baghdad summit, will be at the level of our unexaggerated view and show understanding for all that it is going to hear from the brothers in Jordan and respond to all that Jordan will submit. This is because Jordan has paid the price of its firm pan-Arab stand toward the Palestine question which Jordan is still committed to support and to back the great Palestinian people with all its resources and capabilities.

AD-DUSTUR says: The fraternal, friendly reception accorded the PLO delegation that arrived yesterday and the high-level talks which have begun have natural significance that emphasize the joint interest in the pan-Arab responsibility and the genuine desire for constructive action for the one fateful question. Thus, the dialog was resumed between Jordan and the PLO to enable the Arab world at this delicate historical stage to further coordinate with clear vision and mutual understanding the requirements of struggle for the Arab cause.

Head of the PLO delegation Al-Fahum expressed the PLO's appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's role in building the Jordanian pan-Arab stand toward the Palestine question. Needless to say that this stand is characterized by stability and continuity. It is also a natural fruit of Jordan's living the Palestine question during which the strong bonds between the brothers east and west of the Jordan River were strengthened. It goes without saying that these bonds were, are and will be the strongest tributes that will boost the struggle of the Palestinian people.

V. 27 Nov 78

LEBANON

G 1

FIRE OPENED ON AIRCRAFT ESCORTING PRESIDENT'S PLANE

NC271034Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1005 GMT 27 Nov 78 NC

[Text] His excellency the president of the republic, Ilyas Sarkis, is now preparing to leave Beirut International Airport with the delegation accompanying him for Paris on a 4-day working visit in response to an invitation by President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

The motorcade of His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis arrived at the airport a while ago, where senior statesmen had assembled to bid his excellency farewell. They were headed by his excellency the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Kamil al-As'ad; the ministers and deputies; the army Commander General Victor Khuri; senior commanders of the army command; members of the diplomatic corps, and senior official personalities.

When the president's plane took off, it was escorted by two planes of the Lebanese Air Force which flew at low level over the southern area of Beirut. The planes escorted the president's plane until the end of the limit of Lebanese airspace. The sound of firing was heard. The firing was directed at the two planes and it has been learned that fire was opened by mistake.

SARKIS TO ARRIVE IN PARIS; BUTRUS INTERVIEWED ON VISIT

ID271040Y Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 27 Nov 78 ID

[Text] Lebanese head of state Ilyas Sarkis will arrive today on a 3-day visit to France. Tomorrow he will be received at the Elysee Palace where he will try to gain French support for the security plan mapped out by the Arab heads of states at Bayt ad-Din last month. Here are the explanations of Mr Fu'ad Butrus, minister of foreign affairs and defense of Lebanon.

[Butrus--begin recording] I know that no decisions or resolutions and statements contributing directly and quickly to the solution of our complicated problems can result from our visit to France. Nevertheless I expect from our visit to France a dialog, a clarification of some issues, of some positions in order to put matters in their real context, to try and see how our problems are seen by our friends in the West and to ask them--in as much as the situation justifies this--for their help and support in order to resolve the variety of issues which make up the Lebanese problem. [end recording]

This was only an excerpt from the interview granted by Mr Fu'ad Butrus to Yves-Paul Vincent which will be broadcast in full at 1300 hours by French radio.

SOVIET AID ARRIVES IN BEIRUT 25 NOV

NC242033Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Text] A Soviet cargo plane carrying aid in the form of medicine, food and clothing arrived at Beirut International Airport today. The aid has come from the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent for the Lebanese Government.

BEIRUT SOURCES SAY ISRAEL TO CONSTRUCT AIRFIELD IN S. LEBANON

JN261831Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1758 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 26 November--The Zionist enemy intends to construct a military airport in Marj al-Khiyam area near the international border of occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

V. 27 Nov 78

G 2

LEBANON

Reports received here say that the Zionists are getting ready to reconstruct a military airport that British forces had established and used during the World War II. The reports add that the airport needs only minor repairs before it becomes as fit for use as any other airport in the area, particularly in view of its strategic location and its wide runway.

ZIONIST FORCES SEIZE LEBANESE VESSEL

JN241639Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 November--Zionist forces today commandeered and held for 7 hours a Lebanese ship coming from Cyprus to the port of Tyre in southern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon said that the Zionist directed the ship 20 miles out onto the high seas and subjected it to a thorough search.

In a related development, Zionist planes this afternoon overflew An-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon.

SARKIS INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO FRANCE

NC262057Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Nov 78 NC

[Interview by Antoine Nawfal, chief editor of the Monte Carlo radio newsreel program, with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr President, you will be paying your first visit to the friendly State of France. This visit to France and to President Giscard d'Estaing will be of special importance, in view of the current situation and the nature of Lebanese-French relations. What is required of France? Has it fulfilled part of what is required and what is the nature of your visit?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the situation in Lebanon is abnormal. There is also no doubt that there is a special relationship between Lebanon and France. The history of these traditional relations is known. Regarding the nature of the visit, I would like to explain that it is purely a working visit. It is not an official visit in the sense that the official protocol ceremonies will be cut down. It is a working visit which is more than an official visit.

I will be paying this visit in response to a gracious invitation from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. It is within the framework of the strong friendship between the two countries.

There are many fields of work and cooperation between us and France. The talks will deal with the various aspects of the current situation in Lebanon and what France can contribute by virtue of its status among the Lebanese factions on one hand and in the Arab world and the world community on the other. The talks will also deal with other areas of interest to the two countries.

[Question] What is your view of the present situation in Lebanon? Has the security plan achieved some of its aims within the framework about which you spoke in your recent message to the citizens?

[Answer] We are still giving high priority to security issues in all our activities. If the security situation has received a dangerous setback in the past few months, this does not undermine what has been accomplished on this level compared with what the situation was in September 1976. If we take an objective and realistic look at events, we find that the positive aspects override the negative ones.

There was a security plan for eastern Beirut and some of the southern suburbs. The plan was put into action following the Bayt ad-Din conference. This plan has been implemented now.

[Question] The backbone of every government and every state is the army. The new Lebanese Army is not strong enough yet to impose the state's authority. Therefore, the assistance of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] is needed. How much time you think will be needed to complete building the army so that it will become possible to dispense with this foreign assistance?

[Answer] The army has not come of age yet. The strength which we want it to have has started to emerge. However, what has been achieved so far is important. It can be said that it forms a firm infrastructure or nucleus of a well-equipped army. The new army graduates hail from the various Lebanese areas and from the various communities. They form a good nucleus to be added to the present army personnel.

Until the army is rebuilt and until the regular Lebanese forces become capable of carrying out security tasks--and this may require some time--the ADF consisting mainly of troops from sister Syria will continue to carry out these security tasks.

[Question] National detente depends to a certain extent on detente among the parties involved in the Lebanese crisis. In your opinion, what are the bases for national detente?

[Answer] If it is self-evident that there are parties which--as you say--are involved in the Lebanese crisis, it is also self-evident that the Lebanese people are not pleased with the situation which the country is experiencing. There is growing yearning and sincere desire for a return to normal life so that Lebanon may restore its vitality at home and the status it used to enjoy abroad. This yearning plus the awareness and practicality of the Lebanese are basic factors for the restoration of detente among the Lebanese.

National detente must be based on undisputable tenets: the unity of Lebanon--its territory, people and institutions--and the sovereignty of Lebanon over all its territory and over all those living in Lebanon.

[Question] At the recent Baghdad summit conference, you said that the Palestine problem cannot be solved by creating a Lebanese problem. Consequently, you refuse to link the two problems. Does this mean that the Lebanese problem can be separated from the Middle East problem? Also what will be the future of the south, which is dominated by all sorts of whims and conflicts?

[Answer] Every country has its own special character. This does not mean that any state can remain isolated from the world. Contacts and interrelations are accepted principles. However, this does not mean that we have to wait until the other Middle East problems are solved to begin solving our problem or that we must not adopt any step regarding our problem unless it is accompanied by steps toward solving the situation in the area. Solutions must have a positive approach. Here I reaffirm that the Palestine problem or other Arab problems cannot be solved by creating a Lebanese problem.

Regarding south Lebanon, although abnormal conditions are prevailing there now, it is an indivisible part of Lebanon.

The issue of the south cannot be tackled except in the framework of the issue of Lebanon as a whole.

[Question] At the Baghdad summit, the Arab brothers reaffirmed their readiness to help Lebanon and to rebuild it. This help, however, is conditional upon the restoration of calm. This is like the story of which came first, the chicken or the egg. What do you actually expect of the Arab brothers with regard to support for the army? Will the money come gradually as calm returns gradually or will the money help in the restoration of calm and [words indistinct]?

[Answer] I do not believe that the story is like that of the chicken and the egg. What has been decided in Baghdad is more than a declaration of intent. The principle of helping Lebanon and the basic lines of this principle have been approved, including the financing of the fund for aiding Lebanon and the allotment of the shares of the financing states. In order to implement this principle, meetings will be held at the levels of finance ministers and experts to decide on what is necessary in an accurate and practical manner. It must be pointed out in this respect that the operation of building the country has actually begun. When the expected aid reaches us, it will contribute to creating an atmosphere of reassurance and establishing calm in the country.

[Question] In Baghdad, the Arab states rejected the Camp David resolutions. Do you believe that what is taking place between Egypt and Israel will have repercussions on Lebanon and, if so, what kind of repercussions will there be?

[Answer] As you are aware, we participated in the Baghdad summit and approved the resolution it adopted. These resolutions reflect the desire of all conferees to reach a comprehensive, just and peaceful solution in this part of the world, which has been living in an atmosphere of wars and disturbances for the past 30 years. The resolutions issued by the Baghdad summit do not in any way reflect the desire to prepare for a new war. We in Lebanon believe in the need for a comprehensive solution to the problems of the Middle East in general and of the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the problem, in particular.

Camp David did not find an acceptable solution to the problem of the Palestinian people and their fate--a problem which is important in itself and which is also important for us in Lebanon. In fact, every important event that takes place in the world has repercussions in Lebanon. So, what about an event which involves the Middle East problem as a whole? Of course, we try to tackle such repercussions when they occur, according to the country's interests.

[Question] When you announced your intention to resign, the world was (?shocked). You then changed your mind about resigning under the pressure of local and world political opinion. Do you feel that the circumstances which prompted you to announce your intention to resign have now changed?

[Answer] Change is the law of life. The circumstances that existed at the beginning of July and which prompted me to decide to resign have changed in view of the (?assurances) given by generous Arab and international quarters. Despite the serious developments that have taken place since July, I believe that a change toward good, security, stability and reassurance will take place. The endeavors we are constantly making make me look to the future with faith and (?hope).

[Question] Now that we have neared the end of this first press interview, it is natural for me to ask you about the relations between Lebanon and Syria, particularly in light of the recent developments.

[Answer] The relations between Lebanon and Syria have been and still are special relations in the interest of both countries. This special relationship comes from the history of the two countries, from their being neighbors, and from the affinity between the two fraternal people. These are firm facts and will continue to be so, whatever the difficulties that confront them at times. As for me, I always seek to promote the relations between the two countries for the good of both.

ARMY MAKES ARRESTS IN AL-HADATH 25 NOVEMBER

NC250651Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] In Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Text] At 0545 today a Lebanese Army force surrounded Al-Khuraybah locality in Al-Hadath in the southern suburb. It paved the way for this operation by opening fire for about 30 minutes. According to initial reports, four suspects were arrested in connection with the sudden incident in the area yesterday as a result of which Officer 'Afif Mu'ayqil was killed and three others were wounded.

Meanwhile, the security situation in the capital and suburbs continues to be considerably calm. There have so far been no reports whatsoever of incidents or clashes during the night, although some isolated shots were heard in the center of the capital and the southern suburb.

Statement Issued on Incident

NC251306Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Nov 78 NC

[Statement issued by fifth branch of Lebanese Army Command on 25 November]

[Text] A Lebanese Army platoon was discharging its duty of maintaining security in the Al-Hadath area at 1100 on 24 November 1978. Meanwhile, one of the platoon's armored vehicles came under RPG rocket fire from a position of armed men in the above-mentioned area. The vehicle was hit in the rear. Platoon commander 2d Lt 'Alif Michel Mu'Ayqil was killed and SFC Tony 'Azar was hit.

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The army group in B'abda cordoned off the location of the incident and stormed the position of the armed men, who killed the officer and wounded the sergeant, first class. Consequently, two armed men were killed and another three were wounded. Furthermore, the arms and ammunition which were used in the attack against the army were confiscated. Pvt Mustafa 'Illu was hit in a limb.

The army command regrets that such incidents are occurring after normal life has been restored to the B'abda-Al-Hadath area. However, this command will not allow anything to happen which would disturb security in this area.

PFLP OFFICAL WARNS OF ISRAELI-LEBANESE RIGHTIST OFFENSIVE

JN251348Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 November--A Palestinian official has warned against a new plan by the fascist forces cooperating with the Zionist enemy to strike at the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese nationalist movement. In a interview with INA correspondent in Beirut, Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], said that the enemy has sent two mechanized battalions to the Lebanese border villages and added them to the forces of the agent Sa'd Haddad.

Abu Sharif said that a number of batteries of heavy artillery have been stationed on the southern Lebanese heights and heavy weapons arrived in Beirut recently. The fascist forces cooperating with the enemy, Abu Sharif added, are preparing for a fresh offensive against the Palestinian-Lebanese forces. Abu Sharif said that the signing of the treaty of surrender at Blair House will bring closer the interests of the fascists and the Zionists in establishing a racial communal state in Lebanon similar to that of the Zionist entity. This will inflame the situation in Lebanon.

Concluding his statement, the Palestinian official emphasized the need to raise the degree of preparedness, awareness, and mobilization so as to confront and foil the isolationist-Zionist plot.

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CONVOCAATION OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL IN CAIRO PROTESTED

JN261245Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] The correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic has strongly protested the convocation of the Arab League Council in Cairo on 18 November. This protest is contained in a strongly worded memo which the Foreign Ministry has addressed to the Arab League General Secretariat explaining the illegitimacy of such meetings in Cairo.

The memo says that the ninth Arab summit conference which was held in Baghdad had decided that the Arab League should hold its meetings outside Egypt in the other league member states by turn. Therefore, the General Secretariat of the Arab League should not have convened any council meeting in Cairo, especially since the league secretary general had attended the Baghdad summit and was informed of the summit resolutions, which are considered effective as of the date of their issuance.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD TO VISIT HUNGARY 29 NOV

JN260637Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Nov 78 JN

[Text] At the invitation of Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Pal Losonezi, president of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, will make an official and friendly visit to the Hungarian People's Republic beginning on 29 November 1978.

INFORMATION MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY DAMASCUS PAPER

JN252031Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1250 GMT 25 Nov 78 JN

[Text of Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad's interview with Damascus daily TISHRIN; date not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: There has been a number of important developments in the region which might call for a restudy of the current situation. The president has embarked on a major political move which has covered several fraternal and friendly countries. A Charter of Joint National Action was signed between Syria and Iraq and important resolutions were issued by the ninth Arab summit conference in Baghdad. The Egyptian ruler entrenched his own isolation by refusing to receive the summit conference delegation which went to Cairo with a message. What are the main outlines of the current Arab phase in light of all this? What is our position on what is taking place around us on the Arab and international levels?

Answer: We are not in the phase of consolidating Arab steadfastness, establishing the concept of Arab rights and asserting the historical facts which cannot be overlooked in the life of our nation, which wants to preserve its national existence and to build its civilization.

Question: The Arab masses rejoiced over the signing of the Charter of Joint National Action between Syria and Iraq. Where does this charter stand with regard to consolidating Arab steadfastness and strengthening its trenches?

Answer: The Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement is a historic one responding to the demands of our nation's steadfastness and providing the hope for victory. This rapprochement is strengthened not only by the steadfastness of the two countries but also by the practical Arab confrontation against the enemies of the nation. The rapprochement is made essential by the nature of the phase through which the Arab nation is passing.

Question: If this rapprochement is so essential and important, why was it delayed? It was a surprise to political analysts. What called for an expedited action toward this rapprochement?

Answer: The rapprochement was not a surprise. The real surprise was that the dispute could continue while the nation was going through a bitter tribulation. The importance and necessity of this rapprochement never escaped our minds. Therefore, we in Syria have always expressed our sorrow over the continuation of this dispute and refused to make an issue of it. We have always believed, even during those stages when the relations between the two countries deteriorated badly, that the dispute was bound to come to an end. This belief prompted many of the steps we made to achieve the rapprochement. As to why the rapprochement was achieved only now, I believe that there are many reasons. However, the important reason, in my opinion, is the confusion which prevailed in Arab political life and led to confusion of concepts and blurred political vision. We can confidently say that the rapprochement was an expression of the stage of maturity reached in the light of the crucial options faced by the nation--a stage which eliminated any hesitation and made it impossible for the confused concepts to continue.

Question: The world and Arab press has spoken in detail about the message which President Hafiz al-Asad addressed to our Iraqi brothers late last September and which played a major role in achieving this qualitative change. What was the purport of that message, or what were the main ideas in it?

Answer: The message was first announced by our brothers in Baghdad. Their positive response to it was what led to the normalization of relations between the fraternal countries. I believe that it will be published one day.

In this message, leader Al-Asad spoke about the dangerous situation our Arab nation is facing and the dimensions of the horrible conspiracy threatening it. In this message, President al-Asad addressed the brothers out of a pan-Arab feeling, sincerely calling for the two countries to adopt a position which would be dictated by pan-Arab affiliation and responsibility and by the sincere wish of our Arab masses. I remember that President al-Asad said something to the effect that he was not trying not to announce slogans. This has always been far from his thoughts. The situation our nation is currently facing contains such dangers that it will not permit anyone or any command to consider adopting slogans instead of concrete stands. No one can be preoccupied by talk instead of devoting himself to serious work.

The president also spoke about the two countries' pan-Arab responsibilities toward the dangerous situation our Arab nation is passing through. The president said that if the security of only one country--as opposed to pan-Arab security--had been our objective, it would have been easy for us to achieve such security. He also stressed his and Syria's deep belief in the necessity of rising above all differences and sensitivities, because no matter what the degree and extent of our differences and sensitivities are, it would be impossible and illogical for us to place them on the same level as the differences and contradictions we have with the enemy. I remember well that leader Al-Asad spoken in his message about what would happen to the future Arab generations if Zionism succeeds in imposing its schemes on us. Al-Asad said that the least of these dangerous effects would be passing on to our Arab generations a complex of defeatism and submission. They would thus lose their capability and right to have dignity and their own personality. This would turn them into generations which are not prepared or capable of avoiding the shortcomings of the past, and also not capable of protecting the Arab heritage within the framework of an Arab civilization which runs parallel to the civilizations of other nations and which will be worthy of respect from these civilizations.

With a sense for history, the leader president also spoke in his message about the examples and lessons of the past and stressed that in the history of our and other nations, there are many examples of the fate awaiting a nation which accepts contradictions in its ranks while the enemy is at its doors.

The president concluded his message by saying that our success in overcoming the existing obstacles will reflect positively on our nation and its future, and will enable future generations to read in history that such a stand achieved many things. I believe that this summary from memory of the president's message of 30 September 1978 is in sufficient to convey his feelings and ideas.

Question: Syria has experienced many experiments at unification, from federations to complete unity. We are entering a new experiment under difficult and delicate circumstances. What will protect this experiment from failure and what are the guarantees for its continuity and strength?

Answer: The Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement is a return to a normal state and not a political [word indistinct] act. It is a pan-Arab action which aspires to be a solid nucleus for comprehensive Arab unity.

The meeting aimed at unity between the two countries increases the importance of the geographical area involved. This is the guarantee for strength and continuity. This experiment is different from previous ones we have experienced by the fact that it is an experiment which is not based only on historical facts and lessons, but is also based on economic integration and pan-Arab priorities for the two countries which, if achieved, will constitute security not just for one country in the dangerous circumstances our Arab nation is facing, but will provide the pan-Arab existence, with the bases and power for defense and continuity. We in the two countries belong to one ideological school and one party, with unity as our primary objective.

Question: There are undoubtedly advanced steps of implementation which will be adopted at all levels to quickly implement the National Charter for Joint Action. What are these steps?

Answer: Several committees have arisen from the National Charter for Joint Action. They immediately began meeting to develop serious and practical formulas for implementation which will place the two countries as quickly as possible on the road to integration and unity. I sincerely believe that in this field we are working as one team as requested by the political leaders to develop determined action without conducting our discussions from two different positions. This feeling gives the work of the main and subsidiary committees a special character from which we expect nothing but good.

Question: You said that the leaders of the two countries belong to one ideological school and one party. What will the position of party reorganization be in this rapprochement?

Answer: True, we belong to one ideological school and party. During the years of painful estrangement, circumstances and complications developed which the two countries' leaders decided during their meeting to eliminate. It was agreed to strengthen mutual confidence and to begin with the easy things, and then to move to the difficult areas. The aim is the unity of the two countries. We should begin with the things that facilitate achieving this unity and leave the difficult things to a later stage.

Question: In light of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad and the National Charter for Joint Action, what is the situation of the Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation?

Answer: The Pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation continues to exist. Together with the Arab summit and the National Charter for Joint Action, it forms an inseparable chain for entrenching Arab steadfastness and strengthening our Arab nation's capabilities for steadfastness and confrontation. The various formulas which help strengthen Arab relations are necessary.

Question: One of the decisions adopted by the Baghdad summit conference was the necessity of insuring the strategic military balance with the Zionist enemy. What is the nature of this required balance?

Answer: The slogan of strategic balance with the Zionist enemy was dictated by the practical necessity of the battle of confrontation with the Zionist enemy and his expansionist and racist tendencies. Syria was the first to raise this slogan at the Rabat Arab summit conference as one of the lessons learned from the October liberation war. During that war, we were forced after the first day to fight Israel's main military forces for ourselves. This was after As-Sadat issued orders to his military command not to advance on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. This was admitted by the enemy commanders themselves. Especially by Moshe Dayan when he said that Israel directed its main military effort to the Syrian front. At the Rabat summit, the Arabs were all convinced that each Arab front must be given the ability to face Israel. This conviction was demonstrated in the decision to give equal aid to the northern and western fronts. After As-Sadat's plot, Egypt's withdrawal from the battle and the isolation of Egypt, the slogan was the main subject for the front of steadfastness and confrontation at the three conferences in Tripoli, Algiers and Damascus. This slogan began to mean making the northern front and its extension--the eastern front--able to confront and deter the Zionist designs which were nourished by As-Sadat's surrender.

At the ninth Arab summit in Baghdad, everyone was convinced of the importance of achieving this balance and the need to approve the practical formula for achieving it. We in Syria believe that the most important aid to us, whether as an expression of pan-Arab commitment to the pan-Arab battle by our Arab brothers or as an expression of comradeship in the struggle against American imperialism and world Zionism, was helping us protect our citizens from Zionist expansion and defend our national existence against imperialist and Zionist designs. This aid makes us more able to resist and deter, and to regain our usurped rights. The extent of commitment to our friendship is the extent of aid given to us to help us achieve the strategic balance with the Zionist enemy.

INACCURACIES IN AL-AHRAM'S VERSION OF PEACE TREATY

TA241953Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1820 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[Text] In the coming hours the U.S. administration will publicize the accurate version of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, which the cabinet decided to sign. The decision came in the wake of the publication of a distorted version of this treaty in Egypt today. The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Dr Me'ir Rosenne, told our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram this evening that the version published in Egypt is not accurate.

As an example, Dr Rosenne pointed out the sixth clause in the agreement which states--I am quoting here--the parties undertake to sincerely fulfill their commitments as a result of this treaty, regardless of an action or inaction of any other party and independent of any other agreement. This is a somewhat complicated legal formulation. This means that the peace agreement with Egypt takes preference over any other agreement which the parties signed. The Egyptian version quotes only the first part of this clause, talking of an undertaking to fulfill the clauses of the agreement. In another place the Egyptians ignore a clause which states that in the event of a contradiction between the commitments in the treaty and other treaties, the commitments in this treaty should be adhered to.

Details of Peace Treaty

TA242000Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Nov 78 TA

[Text] AL-AHRAM published details from the proposed treaty between Israel and Egypt, a publication--it is said in Washington--which is inaccurate. Therefore, the Americans have decided to publicize the proposed draft peace treaty and the same decision has been made in Jerusalem.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Dr Me'ir Rosenne, informed our correspondent a short time ago, of the basic points of the preamble and the nine clauses of the treaty. This is the proposal the cabinet discussed on 11 November, and this week Israel has decided it is prepared to sign it.

It is stated in the preamble that Egypt and Israel are convinced of the urgent need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East according to UN Resolutions 242 and 338. They declare their agreement on the Camp David accords, noting that these are intended to be a basis for peace, not only between Egypt and Israel but also between Israel and all its neighbors. Israel and Egypt invite all other Arab countries to join the peace process.

The first clause of the treaty states that the state of war between Israel and Egypt will end and peace will be established when the letters ratifying the treaty have been exchanged. The permanent border between the two countries is the international border of the mandate, and this statement does not harm the status of the Gaza Strip. The two parties will honor their territorial entities, including territorial waters and airspace.

In the third clause, Israel and Egypt undertake not to use force against one another and to settle all conflicts between them in peaceful ways. They undertake to have normal mutual relations including full recognition, diplomatic relations, economic and cultural ties, to end the economic ban and any sort of discrimination and to have a free traffic of people and goods.

The fourth clause of the peace treaty deals with defense arrangements and limitation of forces. A joint committee will be established to help apply the arrangements.

The fifth clause deals with the full freedom of movement in the Suez Canal, the Tiran Straits and the Red Sea.

The sixth clause says that the parties undertake to sincerely fulfill their commitments in the peace treaty regardless of any action or inaction of another party and independent of any document other than the peace treaty.

In a subclause of the sixth clause Israel and Egypt undertake to take measures that will guarantee the application of the multifaceted charters between them. This means that Egypt will rescind its reservations about international charters with everything pertaining to Israel.

Another subclause states that the parties will not undertake any commitment which contradicts the treaty.

The seventh clause states that disagreements regarding the application of the treaty will be settled through negotiations.

A committee to deal with the mutual financial demands is set up according to the eighth clause. The ninth clause says that the treaty will take effect when the letters of ratification have been exchanged.

JERUSALEM PUBLICIZES THIRD APPENDIX OF DRAFT TREATY

TA251631Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The third appendix of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was publicized in Jerusalem this evening. This is a protocol on the relations between the parties.

The first clause states that the parties are ready to institute diplomatic and consular relations and to exchange ambassadors upon the completion of the interim withdrawal.

The second clause states that Israel and Egypt will cancel the barriers to correct economic ties and will end the economic boycott. This, too, upon the completion of the interim withdrawal. Not later than 6 months after this date the two countries will open negotiations on a trade agreement aimed at furthering their economic ties.

The third clause deals with cultural ties. The two countries will establish normal cultural ties on the assumption that cultural exchange in all spheres is desirable. Not later than 6 months after the completion of the interim withdrawal, Egypt and Israel will begin negotiations toward making a cultural agreement.

The free traffic between Israel and Egypt is the subject of the fourth clause. It is stated that upon completion of the interim withdrawal, each party will grant freedom of movement in its territory to citizens and vehicles of the other party according to accepted rules pertaining to citizens and vehicles of other [that is, third] countries. None of the parties will impose discriminatory limitations on the free movement of people and vehicles from its territory to the territory of the other party. Mutual freedom of access to places of religious and historical importance will also be given on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Cooperation for development and neighborly relations--this is the content of the fifth clause. It states that the parties recognize their mutual interest in neighborly relations and agree to examine ways to promote these relations. The parties will cooperate in the promotion of peace, stability and development in the region.

Each of the parties consents to take into consideration the proposals submitted by the other party for this purpose. It is also stated in this clause that the parties will try to further mutual understanding and tolerance and will therefore avoid hostile propaganda against each other.

The sixth clause discusses transportation and communications. Egypt agrees that the airfields left by Israel in Al-'Arish, Rafah, Ra's an-Naqb and Ofira will be operated for civilian use only, including for the commercial use of all nations. As soon as possible, and not later than 6 months after completing the interim withdrawal, the parties will open negotiations toward reaching an aviation agreement. Egypt and Israel will reopen and maintain railways between them, in addition to examining the possibilities of opening additional road and railway connections. The two countries also agree to pave and maintain a road between Israel, Egypt and Jordan that will pass near Elat. Freedom of movement of people, vehicles and goods between Egypt and Jordan will be guaranteed on this road without harm to their sovereignty over those sections of the road passing through their territories. Upon the completion of the interim withdrawal, the two parties will establish normal mail, telephone, Telex, wire and cable connections, in addition to transmission of television and radio programs by cable or satellite according to all international agreements and relevant regulations. Upon the completion of the interim withdrawal, each party will grant free access to its ports to ships and cargo of the other party, and also to ships and cargo coming from or going to the other party.

In contrast with most of the protocol's clauses, which will take effect only upon the completion of the interim withdrawal or soon thereafter, it was agreed that the fifth clause of the peace treaty will be implemented earlier, upon the exchange of the letters of ratification. This clause states that Israeli ships and cargoes to and from Israel will enjoy freedom of movement in the Suez Canal according to the Treaty of Constantinople. It is also stated in this clause that the Tiran Straits and the Red Sea are an international waterway open to all nations for free navigation and flight.

In the seventh clause of the protocol the two parties declare their duty to honor and preserve human rights and basic freedoms.

In the eighth and last clause both Israel and Egypt undertake to allow each other's ships movement through their territorial waters according to the rules of international law.

This was the protocol dealing with relations between Egypt and Israel and constituting Appendix 3 in the draft peace treaty. This protocol was publicized in Jerusalem this evening. The first appendix deals with military matters and the second contains maps. The first and second appendixes have not been publicized yet.

Dayan Comments

TA251721Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The spokesman for the Washington conference, George Sherman, has said that he did not know that Israel intends to publicize the third appendix to the draft peace treaty and he is astonished by this. Sherman told our correspondent Shalom Qital that he heard this for the first time from him.

In Tel Aviv, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan reacted to this, saying that there has been a misunderstanding. Israel has innocently publicized the content of the appendix, without intending to hide this from the Americans.

Talking to our correspondent, Razi Barqa'i, the foreign minister said that it was with the knowledge and approval of the United States that it was decided to publish the draft peace treaty. We have also innocently decided that the appendix is part of the treaty, the foreign minister said. The United States has not informed us that it objects to the publication of this document either.

MA'ARIV REPORTS DAYAN, BEGIN STANCE ON TREATY

TA261459Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Nov pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] "The clause the Egyptians want taken out of the body of the peace agreement is the very heart of the agreement without which making an agreement is pointless." This was said by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in the wake of the publication of the full version of the draft peace treaty proposed by the United States to Egypt and Israel.

The foreign minister added that Israel will under no circumstances give in on this matter, as it announced last week when the cabinet accepted the draft treaty and stated that it is prepared to consider it as the final version (the clause referred to is the one stating that "the parties undertake to sincerely fulfill their commitments according to this agreement regardless of the action or inaction of any other party and independent of the document outside this agreement").

Even before the full version of the peace treaty was released Prime Minister Begin, in internal consultations at the end of the week, rejected the possibility that Israel will agree to the U.S. proposal to undertake to hold elections for the autonomy institutions in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip by the end of 1979 (the latest Egyptian demand is that elections be held in September 1979). The prime minister said: "I will not agree even to a timetable in another 2 years. The negotiations on the establishment of autonomy should be conducted in a leisurely manner and we view the setting of any timetable as one of the gravest dangers."

In consultations held in Jerusalem at the end of the week all agreed that a timetable with regard to the holding of elections for the autonomy institutions may also disrupt the agreement with Egypt. Many expressed the open fear that under certain circumstances Egypt may avoid fulfilling its obligations if the negotiations on autonomy do not satisfy it.

In the wake of the publication of the draft peace treaty and its appendix, most cabinet members said that last week's cabinet position of accepting the version as it is--together with giving up all its earlier reservations--is final. The foreign minister's repeated emphasis regarding unreadiness to drop clause 6 (which determines the independence of the agreement with Egypt) in addition to Prime Minister Begin's firm expression on the issue of the autonomy timetable, demonstrate in fact the Israeli position which states that it is now up to Egypt to decide if it wants the peace agreement with Israel, since further Egyptian conditions beyond what Israel agreed to in accepting the U.S. draft proposal will constitute a real obstacle in the way of achieving a peace agreement.

It has been learned that the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the fact that the third appendix to the peace treaty--the appendix which includes the clause on the independence of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty (the Egyptians demand the removal of the treaty clause dealing with this matter)--was also publicized. It was the prime minister who as early as Tuesday's cabinet meeting proposed that the draft peace treaty between Israel and Egypt be published in full so that the people would understand the meaning of the decision taken by the cabinet to view the draft peace treaty, as suggested by the United States, as the [final] version of the peace treaty. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan remarked at this meeting that perhaps we should not publicize this document without consulting the Americans. However, in the final analysis and despite all the preparations already made by the cabinet secretariat to publish the draft peace treaty, it was agreed to shelve the idea for the time being. Nevertheless, before a check could be made with Washington on this matter, the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM published a version of the draft peace treaty. This version, however, was inaccurate and the Americans also feared undesirable developments in case the complete and updated version accepted by Israel was not published.

Following contacts between Jerusalem and Washington it was decided to publicize the draft peace treaty. The appendices were not discussed but since Israel views them as a natural and integral part of the draft peace treaty it also published the third appendix, which includes the disputed clause to which the Egyptians object. As the foreign minister said, this was done innocently.

The details about the contacts Israel held with the United States at the end of the week will be reported on at today's cabinet meeting. If the prime minister is absent from today's meeting no political debate will be held.

As for reports to the effect that U.S. Secretary of State Vance said in an interview with the New York TIMES that he does not accept Mr Dayan's remarks about the finality of last week's cabinet decision, Mr Dayan said that Israel's position regarding the content of the peace treaty is indeed firm and that when the cabinet made its decision last week it was clear that it is opposed to all ideas of timetables and gestures demanded by the Egyptians.

BACKGROUND ON DECISION TO PUBLISH DRAFT GIVEN

TA261456Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] Israel's decision to publicize the version of the peace treaty with Egypt followed a U.S. appeal to Israel early Friday evening. U.S. Ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis told Foreign Ministry director general Yosef Ciechanover that in the wake of the inaccurate publication of the treaty in AL-AHRAM and the intention of the New York TIMES to publish this version, the United States has decided officially to release the version of the treaty. Lewis wanted to know if Israel agreed to this. The time of publication talked of was Friday night.

After a telephone consultation between Foreign Minister Dayan, Prime Minister Begin and Defense Minister Weizman, in addition to other members of the Israeli delegation to Washington, it was decided to inform the United States of Israel's consent to the publications. For reasons of convenience it was decided simultaneously to make public the [Hebrew] version of the treaty in Israel as well. The Israeli publication took place only at 1200 GMT yesterday--that is, after the publication by the United States--and it also included the version of the third appendix attached to the treaty dealing with bilateral relations [between Egypt and Israel].

It became clear only afterward that the United States published the version of the treaty without any appendix, and indignation was expressed in the United States about the publication of the appendix in Israel. Yesterday evening the Foreign Ministry sent a message of apology to the State Department expressing regret about the publication of the appendix. The message also said that the appendix was published innocently and as a result of a misunderstanding. Political elements explained that the appendixes constitute an integral part of the peace treaty and therefore Israel thought it right to publish the appendix dealing with bilateral relations. The other two appendixes dealing with military affairs--the withdrawal from the Sinai and the deployment of the forces--were not published for security reasons. Furthermore, some clauses in them are not yet completed.

Informed elements totally rejected the assumption that Israel publish the appendix on bilateral relations for domestic reasons, since this part includes details of what Israel "will receive" and not only what it will give. They said that as long as 10 days ago demands were raised in various political circles that Israel release the version of the draft treaty but the prime minister decided against this. It was stressed that had it not been for the U.S. appeal, Israel would not have considered any publication of the treaty or its appendixes, since this is not accepted diplomatic practice. It was also stated that the version of the peace treaty published by the United States was received in Jerusalem only at 1300 GMT yesterday--an hour after the Israeli publication.

Weizman Expresses Reservations

TA271018Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 27 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has reservations about the decision to publish the draft peace treaty proposed to Israel and Egypt.

From remarks Mr Weizman made at yesterday's cabinet meeting it could be inferred that he does not understand why we should have reached an unnecessary confrontation with Egypt and the United States over the publication of the peace document and the accompanying third appendix. According to cabinet ministers, one could infer Weizman's disappointment with the latest developments in the negotiations from his mood.

The cabinet yesterday heard a short summary from Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan of the circumstances leading to the publication of the draft peace treaty. There was also a renewed expression of the view that Israel should not adopt any new positions in the negotiations and should wait for an Egyptian reaction to last week's cabinet decision to ratify the agreement.

Experienced observers yesterday judged that the United States made a commitment to Egypt to integrate in the Israel-Egyptian agreement a date for holding the elections to the autonomy institutions. It is against the background of this assessment that observers explain the tone of criticism toward Israel included in Vance's statement in the New York TIMES the day before yesterday. Vance said in the interview that Israel's consent to sign the agreement is not adequate and the problem of the dates of implementing the autonomy plan should be solved first. Observers in Jerusalem stated that the United States should see to it that Egypt changes its positions and not expect a change in Israel's approach. Nevertheless, observers spoke with a positive tone about Israeli readiness to discuss U.S. proposals if any are raised.

The cabinet yesterday dealt with several current issues and made the following decisions, among others:

A. A public council on the status of women will be set up. The council will have to "shape an overall policy on subjects pertaining to the status of women and supervise the governmental activity in this sphere." A special adviser on the status of women will be appointed in the deputy prime minister's office to deal with the status of women.

B. There will be an examination of ways to establish a memorial center for Levi Eshkol that will commemorate the man and concentrate mainly on researching the settlement [of Eretz Yisra'el over the years]. The home of the late Levi Eshkol in Jerusalem will be put at the disposal of the memorial center.

The cabinet meeting was presided over by Mr. Begin who returned to normal work after 3 days of rest at home.

MK Arens Comments

TA251927Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 78 TA

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, has welcomed the publication of the treaty and appendix since this will enable the public to receive information and check whether it does not constitute a devaluation in comparison with the Camp David agreements or whether it constitutes an improvement from Israel's point of view. MK Arens mentioned that he voted against the Camp David agreements because of the linkage issue that will enable Egypt to cancel the agreement if the Egyptians assume that the linkage matter is not being lived up to.

Two additional negative points, according to Arens, are the absence of a clause obliging Egypt to continue supplying us with oil and the absence of a U.S. commitment regarding the huge expenditures Israel will get involved in upon the withdrawal and redevelopment. Nevertheless, he noted as an advantage the clause stating that the negotiations on normal relations will begin with the IDF still controls eastern Sinai.

DAYAN SEES NO REASON TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON TALKS

NC261130Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 78 NC

[Text] After the cabinet meeting, the cabinet secretary said, in reply to reporters' questions, that Israel has proposed to Egypt that the American version of the peace accord be signed and that Israel is now waiting for Cairo's reply.

Our correspondent Zvi Lidor says that the cabinet discussed current topics this morning. At the beginning of the meeting, the prime minister briefed the ministers on political developments. He said that the third appendix of the peace treaty was made public by the Foreign Ministry with his knowledge.

During this morning's session, the foreign minister restated that a misunderstanding has occurred in this case, and that the publication [of the peace treaty draft] was done innocently. The foreign minister also reiterated his stand that for the time being there is no reason to go to Washington in order to continue the negotiations in view of the situation that has been created following the cabinet's decision. The prime minister approved [the foreign minister's] stand and said that we must wait for Egypt's reply.

BEGIN TO PROPOSE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON TIMETABLE ISSUE

TA270629Y Jerusalem POST in English 27 Nov 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Anan Safadi, POST Mideast affairs editor]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will propose to the U.S. that the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over the problem of a timetable for a settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip be resolved in an exchange of letters between him and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat.

This was stated last night by sources close to the prime minister. The sources did not elaborate, but indicated that the premier was willing to begin negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza autonomy within a few weeks after signing the peace treaty with Egypt.

The sources declined to say whether the prime minister had made his proposal on the exchange of letters with As-Sadat formally at yesterday's regular weekly cabinet session.

The cabinet yesterday reaffirmed its rejection of Egyptian demands for modifying the draft peace treaty, saying the document has already been endorsed by Israel and Egypt ought to follow suit.

"We are waiting for Egypt's response," cabinet secretary Arys Na'or said following the 2-hour session--which was surprisingly short compared to the recent marathon political debates by the cabinet. Na'or's terse remark was the only statement about yesterday's cabinet discussion. No details were divulged.

Well-informed sources said the cabinet was briefed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on the present state of the stalled peace negotiations as well as on a recent exchange of messages between Washington and Jerusalem. One of these messages reportedly touched on a renewed American appeal to Israel to formulate its pledge for negotiating the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip into what were described as general target dates.

Ministers, however, indicated their full support for the prime minister's insistence that Israel commit itself to no dates other than those set by the Camp David "framework" agreements, which provide for the West Bank and Gaza negotiations to take place after the peace treaty is signed with Egypt. The cabinet cited the following main guidelines in the Camp David framework:

--That the parties negotiate transitional arrangements for the West Bank and Gaza for a period not exceeding 5 years. Negotiations will define the powers and responsibilities of the self-governing authority to be set up in the West Bank and Gaza as well as the procedures for its election.

--When the self-governing authority is inaugurated, the transitional period of 5 years will begin.

--Not later than the third year after the beginning of the transitional period, negotiations will take place to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza.

Begin yesterday endorsed Dayan's position that there is no point in returning to Washington for further negotiations as long as Cairo has not endorsed the treaty. Begin was said to have expressed his endorsement when two unidentified ministers criticized Dayan for his stand on boycotting the talks until Egypt acquiesces to the current language of the treaty.

According to reports to the cabinet yesterday, President as-Sadat by last night was still pressing for three substantive issues whose non-resolution has been holding up the signing of the peace treaty.

One of these issues concerns Egypt's rejection of two clauses of article 6 of the draft. Clause 2 states that the parties undertake to fulfill in good faith their obligations under this treaty, without regard to action or inaction of any other party and independently of any instrument external to this treaty. Clause 5 says that in the event of a conflict between the two obligations of the parties under the treaty and any of their other obligations, the obligations under this treaty will be binding and implemented.

Dayan has declared that without these clauses--designed to make Egypt give priority of obligation to Israel over commitments to Arab pacts, especially the anti-Israel ones--the treaty would lose its meaning. Dayan further cautioned that unless these clauses were accepted by Egypt, Israel would not sign the draft peace treaty which it has already endorsed.

The other issue is related to Egypt's demand for a more explicit and legally binding connection between the treaty and the Camp David framework agreement on the quest for an overall Middle East settlement, including the future of the Palestinians. Last week Israel reluctantly withdrew its own earlier reservations over such a "linkage," which was vaguely phrased in the preamble of the draft peace treaty.

The third major problem is Egypt's demand for a timetable linking the phased establishment of autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza to Israel's two-stage withdrawal from Sinai. The Egyptians, who want negotiations on autonomy to begin 1 month after signing their treaty with Israel, demand that a definite date be set for electing a self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza. However, Jerusalem is prepared to commit itself only to its beginning the autonomy negotiations "at an early date" after signing the treaty with Egypt.

PRIME MINISTER AZHARI ADDRESSES MAJLIS 22 NOV

LD221903Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Speech by Prime Minister Gholamreza Azhari in the Majlis on 22 November--recorded]

[Excerpts] The present government does not wish to deny the existence of discontent that has resulted from neglect. In regard to the people's demands for their legitimate rights, the present government will endeavor to engender in the people the feeling that there is no divergence whatever between the interests of the state and the interests of the government. If the government program mentions the issue of peace and order, this is not intended as a goal but as a means of preparing a basis for the creation of what is sacred to all of us Iranians, that is, the proper implementation of the constitution, particularly the enjoyment of individual and social liberties, the expression of thoughts and ideas, and consequently the possibility of realizing democracy in the sense of government of the people, by the people. We have no intention whatever, under the pretext of establishing order, of sacrificing what is sacred to all the nation, of which we ourselves are a part. The aim of establishing order is obedience to the laws of the country and safeguarding the natural status of the people who live in this country.

We want to bring about a situation in which all groups--I repeat, all groups--all political parties, except those that do (?not believe) in the constitution, will be able, through principled and proper campaigning and through participation in all social and political activity, to participate in running the country for the people by winning the people's trust and confidence. We have no intention of stemming or dashing national hopes and aspirations.

I consider it necessary at this point to clarify, in complete frankness, this government's position for my dear countrymen and for the world. This government came to power at a time when strategists had openly waged a cold war against our national security. A number of the cities, and eventually the capital, were set on fire. The open, declared intention of armed operations had been stated in numerous leaflets. These openly admitted knowledge of theoretical and practical ways of engaging in subversion and making bombs. They regarded the time so ripe for implementing their evil intentions that they made no attempt at concealing their satanical, evil intentions.

Our enemies and those who harbor ill will toward us are now engaged in propaganda activity because the military has come to power in the country. This poses a good question; it involves our honor because we are Iranians. They have come to power to protect you. And why shouldn't they come to power? The enemies, however, say: Why has the military come to power? Count the number from the military. Has not the Iranian nation paid for the army, so that these officers and soldiers can sacrifice their lives for you in case of a threat to the country? Have we not made sacrifices? Who is paying my salary and other officers' salaries?" Who is paying for their guns and ammunition? All this comes from your money. All this is intended to serve you and protect you when needed.

This government will exert all efforts, in accordance with the law, so that security and order can be restored as soon as possible and so that the successive government, which will consist of coordinating national forces, will be able to organize a free and reliable election.

Go ask the ministers if I know any of them, except one who was head of the provincial justice department when I was in Kermanshah, and the few officers. When selecting them I didn't even ask about their political views. I don't know whether any of them belongs to the Pan-Iranist Party, the Azadegan Party, or any other parties. This is no concern of mine. I said in my speech that I was even prepared to welcome the National Front. It makes no difference to us, so long as they respect the constitution.

Just as I will use the security forces and the imperial army with utmost vigor to restore order and security, I will crack down on those who have created this malignant tumor of discontent, whatever their past or present ranks, and hand them over to justice. None of the actions of this government, however, shall contravene the constitution.

The matter of this government being a military government has been brought up. I hope, God forbid, that the term "military" will not be misconstrued or be interpreted as a government that disregards the law. I am here before the honorable Majlis deputies. If you give me your votes, I will continue in office; if you don't give me your votes, I will go back to my job. This is not a military government as known elsewhere in the world. We, the military, have taken the oath before the shahanshah on the protection of our country. The sort of military government that the rest of the world knows is not something that would ever occur to an Iranian officer. God forbid. As for this government being temporary, I truly realize that my services are much more needed in the army than as a prime minister.

Now, how long will this government continue its work? This is the question when it is said that this government is a temporary one, for as long as the shahanshah decided, whenever the Majlis and the Senate cast their vote of no-confidence. I don't know when. I don't know whether it will be tomorrow that you give me a vote of no-confidence, or right now. You can do it right now. The shahanshah can tell me this very moment that he does not want me as prime minister any longer. I am a sworn soldier of this country. Thus the government will continue until either the shahanshah decides otherwise or the parliament fails to give me its vote of confidence. Other than that, I have no idea about the duration.

Honorable Majlis Deputies, have confidence in your army. I told a Majlis deputy a few days ago that should a foreign war be imposed on us--imposed, because we are a peaceful nation--you can rely on the army, even against the greatest power on earth, unless, of course, they use the atomic bomb against us. Our weapons, our training--I have confidence in them. This has been shown on many occasions. The military has proved its faith in your shah. This has been said the world over--that the Iranian army is truly loyal to the shahanshah. [shouts of agreement] What does this loyalty mean? The shah is the symbol of my country, the symbol of every individual in the Iranian nation. [sentence indistinct] So have confidence. That is why I am telling you that I don't want to be prime minister. God willing, my job will be finished here soon so that I can go back to the job I love. I love my other job; my current job is only a mission, an assignment. By your vote, you are giving me the assignment.

All governments in the world know what sort of armed forces we have. They have watched our military exercises. I have invited their representatives to come and see what sort of army you have. However, certain circles that are not well informed think that because there have been some disturbances in Iran they can, as one deputy put it, make a decision for us. They do not realize that the Iranian nation will get aside all differences when it is threatened. The people will be behind the army, the army behind the shahanshah, the nation behind the shah.

Addresses Senate 23 Nov

LD32350Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Nov 78 LD

[Speech by Iranian Prime Minister Gholamreza Azhari at Senate session during debate on government program on 23 November--recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, only to you do I turn for help to enable me to succeed in fulfilling this momentous task. Mr Speaker and the Right Honorable Senators: As a soldier who has spent most of his life learning and teaching techniques of soldiery, the present assignment--namely, serving in the trenches of heading the government--is both difficult and opportune; difficult, because, as I said when presenting the government program to the Senate and the Majlis, the day when I was assigned to form a government on the order of the shahanshah aryamehr, the situation in the country had become so chaotic and the nation was in a state of such profound anxiety that it was difficult to find a group or individual who was not suffering anxieties or problems.

Economic, social, educational and industrial insecurity had collectively brought about a chaotic situation. We were faced with a situation such that if someone happened to return to the country after 2 or 3 years, or even happened to return to Tehran, he would have thought he had arrived at a country in a state of war, and a defeated country at that. There were no taxis at the airport, all the bazaars were closed, the schools were closed, shops and banks were mostly burned down, people were fighting each other and the law enforcement officers as well; they had felled trees all over the streets, they were burning tires, cars, buses, taxis, buildings; everything was on fire.

Indeed, it was under these circumstances that his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr decided to summon me to change the situation in the country. He gave his order and I, as a soldier, took the oath to carry out the order issued by my shahanshah, even at the cost of my life. I realized that it involved grave danger; I knew it was extremely difficult; but have I not been trained for such occasions? The nation has spent money, sent me to school, sent me abroad, enabled me to study at home because of this. I thought about and studied the situation, and I truly had the same feeling as the man who has just returned to his country after a few years. I saw my country at war; then I thought about the shahanshah, the custodian of this country and the constitution, having chosen me, an officer, an army man. Without even uttering a word, I realized that the shahanshah shared my own feelings about the situation, that is, seeing the country at war. Consequently, in wartime, it is the officer who must take over; it must be an officer who takes over the control of the situation. You may wonder, saying to yourselves: But there does not appear to be a war. As the Right Honorable Jalal Na'ini pointed out, seldom do we read books; we do not realize that the world has changed; we do not know.

Nowadays, wars have changed, types of wars have changed. There was a time when swords, clubs and shields were used, which later changed into firearms. As for World War III, which according to some people has already begun and which we are now involved in, it has ensnared us as well. However, this war bears no resemblance to World War II, which required a foreign country to attack us with artillery and guns. In this war, instead of attacking us from our borders, the enemy attacks our hearts.

This is not a war as fought centuries ago or even as World Wars I and II were fought; this is a psychological war; this is a war in which the enemy attacks our hearts, our thoughts, or ideas, our souls, our brains and our nerves. This is the result, as you see. Had it not been so, then how could an Iranian set fire to his own buildings, his own buses, his own telephone kiosks? Therefore, as you see, the Right Honorable Na'ini, the right honorable senators, the enemy has succeeded in controlling our brains, thoughts, reasoning and souls.

Obviously, as you yourselves said and as all of us believe, as the shahanshah believes, if the enemy has succeeded in attacking us in such a manner, it is entirely our own fault; 100 percent. I do not wish to go into this any further as it would serve no purpose other than rubbing salt into your wounds. You are aware of this situation. Had it not been for the people's discontent, then the enemy would have had no chance of enjoying such calamitous success. People were unhappy; we failed to resolve their discontent and meet their requirements; they were not asking a great deal, really. Yet, we created this situation because of selfishness, hypocrisy, deceit, favoritism and in order to achieve trivial objectives, thus making it possible for the enemy to manipulate the situation.) However, the noble Iranian people did indeed show considerable patience and tolerance and used a certain method of demonstrating and voicing their discontent.

I am proud of my colleagues; as you can see for yourselves, accepting responsibility under the present circumstances is very difficult, extremely difficult. Today a ministerial post is no longer a ceremonial title; it requires devotion. In order to choose the members of my cabinet, I spent a great deal of time and effort investigating their capabilities, their reputations and their acceptability to society. One of them, a general, told me to go and kneel in front of his eminence. Of course, it is proper, as he is our leader. However, remember, I brought these colleagues into the cabinet with your (?approval). In any case, I hope these gentlemen, the members of the cabinet, may be able to solve the present problems.

For instance, there are a number of judges who have resigned; there are others who have retired; there are also those who have joined the lawyers association, and forgive me, have made a little money and are unable to give it up. [Words indistinct] there was one gentleman whom I sent for personally, telling him that our Justice Ministry is short of judges and asking him to please return. He said: My dear fellow, I have finished my job; do you think I am crazy? In one single case I made 5 million rials; what can you offer me? I expressed my apologies, saying I thought he was not only after money; otherwise I would not have bothered.

In view of the shahanshah's message of 6 November, the constitution will indeed be observed; the country's king has officially committed himself. I must say that since the remark was made, I, as prime minister, am working like a prime minister working in France. I am answerable to you; anything happening in this country is my responsibility; I am responsible. The shahanshah has addressed the nation. Make no mistake, with so much experience, with such a global outlook, I would be a fool not to make use of this opportunity. In any case, the responsibility is mine; the general responsibility is that of my ministers and no one else.

I made some notes on the remarks made by the Right Honorable Jalal Na'ini. I accept his advice most heartily and willingly. You advise me to accept the advice offered by religious leaders. As a soldier, I realize the importance of religion more than anyone else; I am aware of the importance of religious leaders, for my soldiers and my officers would have no cause to die in battle but for religion reasons. If religious leaders failed to make the soldier understand that when he gets killed fighting for an Islamic country he goes to paradise, then he would not fight.

Another point I would like to mention is the stopping of bloodshed. I do not know what to do; honestly and truly, I do not know what to do in order to stop the bloodshed. One of the ulemas, who knows me either as a commander in various jobs or who has heard of me, telephoned me a couple of days after I took over as prime minister, saying that a family in Zanzan which had lost some of its members had gone to his house. He wanted to know what to say to the family. I told him that I had no answer either. I asked him what he expected me to say. Why? Because I am engaged in a war, as you are, and as the country is. How could an Iranian, with charm and a poetic spirit, set fire to his own buildings?

The government must respect the constitution; my very presence here is due to this. If the government did not respect it, I would not be here. Unfortunately, there has been some misunderstanding regarding the adjectives attributed to this government. They call it a military government; obviously, I am proud of being a military man. However, when a military government takes over in other countries it usually takes control of everything and violates all the laws in order to be able to run the country, for such a government may think it cannot control events within the framework of the law--military men not being real politicians. This does not apply here, since there is no such military government in the imperial army. I am the head of a government formed on the orders of the shahanshah, the Majlis--as from yesterday--and you, the Senate, if you give me your vote of confidence. I shall return to my previous post if you do not vote for my government. Consequently, the military government imagined in the rest of the world, I hope, I am convinced, will not take place in our army. [hear, hear] It will not happen. We consider ourselves as the people's servants and the obedient servant of the shahanshah; we shall never take any action contrary to the constitution. I will be happy to be reminded immediately if I do anything that is outside the constitution. I shall immediately return to my previous post.

I hope to be able to (?carry out) the task entrusted me by the shahanshah and, up to now, the houses of parliament, with the cooperation of my colleagues and with the guidance provided by both progovernment and antigovernment individuals. The only condition I set is respect for and devotion to the constitution. In my first speech, I said I invited this very same Dr Sanjabi you have mentioned. Do I ever ask my cabinet ministers to what political party they belong? I welcome with open arms anyone having faith in the constitution in this country. I was very pleased to hear you say today that Dr Sanjabi had not said anything against the constitution; however, I was informed to the contrary. I was really and truly pleased. I would very much like to be able to make use of our men. I feel a heavy burden on my shoulders, for, as you have said, I am really not made to be a prime minister; this is a job for a politician.

I do hope, with the help of my dear colleagues who have honored me by accepting ministerial jobs, and with your guidance, to be able to return to the post which I love. I consider this an assignment. I thank you all for your patience in listening to my speech.

CHILDREN RETURN TO CLASSES AS SCHOOLS OPEN 25 NOV

LD251738Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren in various parts of the country have returned to classes. With the opening of over 1,000 guidance schools in Tehran, Shemiran and Shahr-e Rey, 310,000 schoolchildren attended classes.

Over 75,000 schoolchildren in Hamadan province also attended classes.

It was also announced today that all guidance schools in Bushehr province and educational courses for adults in that province will begin work tomorrow.

The deputy head of the education and training general department in Tehran announced that to make up for the loss of studies by schoolchildren additional teaching hours will be considered.

AFP: SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS MARK STRIKE 26 NOV

TA261625Y Paris AFP in English 1605 GMT 26 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Nov 26 (AFP)--Scattered demonstrations across the country marked today's general strike called by the Iranian religious and political opposition, sources in the opposition said.

Troops fired into the air at three points in Tehran to disperse demonstrators, and thousands participated in a march in the northeastern holy city of Mashhad. No reports of casualties were received. Demonstrations were also held in Qom, Rasht and Esfahan, where shots were reportedly fired. Opposition sources said 17 teachers were arrested and the headmaster of a high school was beaten up in Rasht by security forces. The strike was called by the Shi'ite Moslem religious hierarchy and the opposition political National Front to mourn victims of recent clashes between demonstrators and security forces throughout the country.

The full impact of the strike was difficult to assess with newspapers shut by a strike for almost 3 weeks and numerous other strikes disturbing broad sectors of the economy. Electricity blackouts were said to have occurred throughout Iran.

23 Reported Killed

TA270935Y Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 27 Nov 78 TA

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov 27 (AFP)--Up to 23 people died in clashes between anti-Shah demonstrators and security forces during yesterday's general strike, Iranian opposition sources said here today. An estimated 13 people died in clashes at Gorgan in the north-east and it is feared another 10 were killed in Esfahan, south of here, the sources claimed.

Seven people were injured during clashes between troops and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) workers demonstrating outside the company's headquarters here during the opposition-called strike, the sources said.

Tehran Report on Demonstrations

LD261714Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Demonstrations were held in a number of Tehran streets today. Security forces dispersed the demonstrators so as to maintain order. A group of people gathered in front of Aryamehr University while military forces maintained their vigilance to prevent any form of disorder. A group of people also gathered in front of the National Iranian Oil Company headquarters on Takht-e Jamshid Avenue, where they later staged demonstrations. A number of shops were closed in Tehran today and some other shops kept their shutters half closed.

According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report, Esfahan was not normal today. Shops in Chahar Bagh Avenue, in the Bazaar and other streets were closed. Demonstrations began this morning in the northern streets of the city, but the demonstrators were dispersed after intervention by the security forces.

A group of people in Rezaiyeh gathered in the streets of the city to stage demonstrations around noon today. Security forces stationed in key locations in the city intervened and dispersed the demonstrators.

Scattered demonstrations were held in Hamadan this morning, but the demonstrators were dispersed after intervention by the security forces.

According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report, at noon today thousands of citizens in the city of Mashhad staged a peaceful march.

Demonstrations were also held in Gorgan by various groups today. Demonstrations degenerated into violence and security forces were forced to shoot over the heads of the demonstrators to disperse them. So far we have not received any reports on casualties or possible deaths resulting from this incident.

Curfew Extended in Esfahan

LD262152Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] In its communique No 65, the military governorate of Esfahan says the following: Because of riots and the fires set to a number of enterprises and shops by a group of saboteurs today, beginning on Sunday, 26 November, curfew hours will be changed from the current 2300 through 0500 the next day to 2000 through 0600 the next day.

AFP REPORTS TROOPS, DEMONSTRATORS CLASH 27 NOV

TA270921Y Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 27 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27 (AFP)--Troops fired teargas grenades at groups of anti-shah demonstrators in central Tehran early today. The clashes took place between the university quarter and the headquarters of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) but it is not known whether anyone was injured.

Yesterday, workers demonstrated outside NIOC headquarters during the general strike called by the religious and political opposition. The authorities have still not reopened the university.

AZHARI ASKS SHOPKEEPERS TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES

LD261940Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The following statement addressed to shopkeepers was issued by Gen Gholamreza Azhari today: I hereby ask all shopkeepers in Tehran and provincial cities and towns to hold meetings to elect your trusted representatives from every guild, and, with absolute freedom, to select two representatives from each guild and officially introduce them to the Ministry of Commerce so that an arrangement can be made for them to meet with me and my colleagues in order to solve the shopkeepers' problems. These meetings shall be held without the presence of government officials, municipal officials, or officials from the Chamber of Guilds. Needless to say, in Tehran and other cities where martial law regulations are in effect, these meetings must be held with the prior knowledge of the martial law authorities.

[Signed] Gen Gholamreza Azhari.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ROYAL FAMILY'S WEALTH

LD261026Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Nov 78 LD

[Text] On the order of the shah, 'Ali Asghar Amin, Nasreddin Khajavi and Baqer Shahidi, three former senior Supreme Court judges, have been appointed as members of a committee of investigation into the wealth of the members of the royal family.

RASTAKHIZ PARTY ACCOUNTS UNDER INVESTIGATION

LD271056Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 27 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The Tehran public prosecutor has stated that the investigation of the accounts of the Rastakhiz Party has already started and that five people suspected of misappropriations have been forbidden to leave the country.

COMMISSION TO CONSIDER REMOVING ACCUSED DEPUTY'S IMMUNITY

LD252112Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] The Justice Commission of the National Consultative Assembly has decided to continue the detention in the Majlis of Salar Jaf, the deputy for Paveh and Uramanat. The commission will meet on Wednesday to consider a request from the Ministry of Justice that the deputy be stripped of his parliamentary immunity. Mehdi Sheykholslami, the commission's chairman, told radio correspondent Fayeze Puya that Deputy Salar Jaf was accused of having instigated murder, aggravated assault, pillage, arson and the destruction of property.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ORDERS RETURN OF TWO COMPANY EMPLOYEES

LD252138Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Tehran public prosecutor has ordered two accused employees of the Mahestan Housing Construction Company to return to Iran as soon as possible and report to the judicial authorities. Public prosecutor Hashemi, in an interview with our correspondent, said: The two accused Mahestan company individuals, Gholamreza Golsorkhi and Dr Aslanpur Qaheri, are warned to return to Iran from abroad as soon as possible and report to the Tehran public prosecutor's office; otherwise, measures will be taken through Interpol for their arrest and return.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI, AMIN RECEIVE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER

LDT251826Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The great leader of the people of Afghanistan, Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba, for a courtesy call at 1700 at the People's House today. Hafizollah Amin, deputy premier and foreign minister, Shah Mohammad Dost, deputy foreign minister of political affairs, and His Excellency Raul Garcia Palaez, Cuban ambassador in Kabul, were also present at this meeting.

Talks Begin

LDT251848Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 22 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Hafizollah Amin, deputy premier and foreign minister, held talks at 0930 today at the foreign ministry with His Excellency Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba.

During the talks, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and complete understanding, the two parties exchanged views of the strengthening of friendly relations and the expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries in various areas. They also discussed the nonaligned movement and the forthcoming summit conference of non-aligned countries in Havana, regional issues, and international matters of interest to the two countries. The talks continued until 1150.

The talks were attended on behalf of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by Shah Mohammad Dost, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mirza Samah, supervisor of the General Directorate of Economic Relations in the Foreign Ministry, Dr Mohammad Rafiq (Sham'ariz), director of the Third Political Department in the Foreign Ministry, Asadollah Matin, director of information at the Foreign Ministry, Abdolmohmud (Shamel), director of the cultural relations in the Foreign Ministry and 'Abdolmajid Mangal, assistant in the UN Directorate for Conference Affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

The following were present at these talks on behalf of the Republic of Cuba: His Excellency Raul Garcia Pelaez, ambassador of the Cuban Republic in Kabul, His Excellency (Lopez Delamo); His Excellency Fernando Florez Barra, ambassador-director in the Foreign Ministry of Cuba; Rafael Hernandez, deputy director of protocol in the Foreign Ministry; (Redito Mori), assistant to the Cuban minister; and (Rotni Lopez), consul in the Cuban Embassy in Kabul.

INDIA

CONGRESS PARTY WORKING COMMITTEE ENDORSES UNITY EFFORTS

BK241643Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The Congress working committee today took a majority decision to explore the possibility of bringing about unity among congressmen. A resolution was adopted to this effect taking note of the appeal given by the Congress-I president, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The Congress president, Mr Swaran Singh, told newsmen that the resolution has the support of 11 out of 17 working committee members. Those who voted against are: Mr Y.B. Chavan, Dr Karan Singh, Mr A.K. Anthony, Mr Hitendra Desai, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi and Mr Chandrajit Yadav.

Mr Swaran Singh said efforts were made to reach a unanimous decision, but at last the resolution had to be put to vote, as suggested by some.

AIR's [All-India Radio] correspondent reports that the working committee's decision comes after 3 days of full-scale discussion. One of the meetings was attended by the members of the executive of the Congress Parliament Party also.

Mr Swaran Singh said he has no illusion that the solution is around the corner. All the same, efforts for unity should be continued, he added.

The resolution says the possibility of unity should be explored, keeping in mind the objectives and programs and the necessity for democratic functioning of the party. The endeavor [words indistinct] should be to seek the cooperation of other progressive forces on the basis of an agreed program.

Alleging that the Janata government is eroding many of the serious national values, the resolution stresses the need for all congressmen to unite in order to make the Congress movement strong. The working committee felt that the recent political developments have underlined the need to recapture the spirit of a national movement.

Mr Swaran Singh also released to newsmen an alternative draft resolution prepared by Dr Karan Singh. Our correspondent says Dr Karan Singh's draft makes no mention of Mrs Gandhi's appeal for unity. While reiterating the Congress president's earlier suggestion that all congressmen wherever they are should come together, Dr Karan Singh's draft resolution says that the party's door should be left open to all those who accept this ideology and the basic principles of collective leadership and inner party democracy.

After the working committee meeting was over, those who voted against the resolution met at Mr Chavan's residence. Mr Chavan told our correspondent that there is not going to be any split in the party. They will watch further developments, he added.

NEPAL

RESIGNATION OF SIX NEPALESE MINISTERS REPORTED

BK260530Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0524 GMT 26 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Katmandu, Nov 26 (AFP)--King Birendra of Nepal this morning accepted the resignations tendered by 6 ministers of the 25 member Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista, in order to fight the forthcoming election for the National Legislative Assembly.

Among the six, how Mahadur Shrestha, minister for law and justice was one of the most senior cabinet ministers. The remaining five included two ministers of state and three junior ministers.

The portfolios handled by these outgoing ministers were distributed among the sitting ministers without making any new entrants.

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SOUTH ASIA

However, a major cabinet reshuffle is due for mid-April next year (?when) one third of the national Panchayat--the unicameral legislative assembly--will be freshly elected.

It is a principle in partyless Panchayat policy that all ministers who are contesting the elections should resign and remain out of office so they cannot influence docile voters.

PAKISTAN

HAQ DECLARES WILLINGNESS TO HAND POWER TO CIVILIANS

BK241156Y Karachi Domestic Service 1005 GMT 24 Nov 78 BK

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the announcement about the introduction of Nizam-I-Mustafa [Islamic ideology] in the country will be made in a few days. Talking to newsmen at Lahore airport on his arrival from Rawalpindi this afternoon, he said his recent offer to hand over power to the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] still stands if there is real unity among the PNA component parties and they merge themselves into one united party. He said: If the politicians can stand up and come in a joint united party to run the country, I would be the first man to hand over power.

Replying to a question, he said elections are the responsibility of the army and the judiciary.

The president said he is very hopeful that the results of the elections would be positive.

SRI LANKA

SEVERE STORM KILLS AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE

OW241858Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1835 GMT 24 Nov 78 OW

[Excerpt] Colombo, 24 Nov (AFP)--A severe cyclonic storm which lashed the northern part of Sri Lanka today killed at least 14 people, rendered thousands of others homeless and left a trail of destruction before heading towards South India this evening. The Colombo observatory said the storm, accompanied by torrential rain and winds raging at 100 mph at times, which entered Sri Lanka in the eastern coast shortly after midnight swept through the North Central Province and left the country's western coast near Mannar. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, making a statement in parliament, said at least 14 people were killed in different parts of the country and about 15,000 were rendered homeless in the eastern coast town of Batticaloa. He said a severe earthslip had occurred at Kandy and it was feared several people were buried under it. The government today mounted a massive rescue and relief operation with the help of troops and appointed eight army officers to co-ordinate the relief activities in the affected areas. Sri Lanka Air Force planes which had been standing by from morning till the weather cleared to operate relief flights was preparing to drop food parcels this evening to thousands of marooned people. The navy has sent a unit of navy personnel with boats to rescue about 2,000 people marooned in Batticaloa following a huge tidal wave which hit this eastern coast town last night in the wake of the cyclonic storm. The storm has damaged several thousand houses, disrupted telecommunication facilities, cut off power supplies, uprooted hundreds of trees and telegraph posts.